MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM, THE GARDEN,

AND

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FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

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Editorial.

SOWING GRASS SEED.

We have so often discussed the practical details of the management of grass lands and the times and methods of sowing grass seeds, that we fear that some of the readers of the *Ploughman* may think it already worn threadbare, so to speak, and be inclined to skip the subject. But there are some things that require line upon line and precept upon precept, and we think the grass question one of them. Nothing is so intrinsically important to the New England farmer as the grass crop. It is the foundation stone of all success.

What we propose to call attention to now, as we have done several times before, is the bad practice of sowing grain and grass seed together in seeding down. The loss to our farmers is very great from this practice and we are clear in our opinion that it ought to be entirely abandoned and that immediately and forever. How absurd it seems when we strive so hard to get land into a prime condition to bear and carry a good crop of grass to sow with our grass seed any kind of grain to sap the ground, and take out of it the very elements we have been trying two or three years, perhaps, to get into it. And yet many, indeed we think the majority of farmers still cling to this old custom, as if they thought it an essential part of the system of grass cultivation; as if they had an idea that they cannot raise grass by sowing the seed alone, or a fear that it will prove a loss, which two strings to the bow may prevent. We are suffering untold loss in the cost of seed and the waste and injury which the grain crop entails upon the grass, every year.

As a general rule grass seed will do vastly better when sown alone than it will with any grain. There may be exceptions. Seasons differ greatly and "circumstances alter cases" as they say, but in the long run we hazard nothing in saying that the practice referred to is wasteful and uneconomical in the extreme. And we are delighted to see and hear one after another of the thinking farmers in the community coming to the same conclusion. Wherever it is carefully tried and closely observed it will gain ground.

When the subject of the management of grass lands was under discussion at the meeting of the State Board of Agriculture at Fitchburg, Mr. A. P. Slade of Somerset, said: I tried a little experiment connected with this matter which may perhaps be worth while to state. I know the subject of raising grasses in a very important one, and I think that the old custom of sowing grass seed with grain is one that should be discontinued; there is no fact better established on my own land than that. Consequently, last spring I experimented in that respect. I took a piece of ground that had been planted some dozen or fifteen years (and by the way, it was unfavorably situated, from the fact that it was penetrated on its borders by the roots of elm trees which ran under it for a hundred feet or more). I ploughed it the first day of April, and pulverized it perfectly. I worked it over and got it smooth, and sowed herdsgrass, redtop and clover. The grass came up very readily, much more so than I expected, and looked finely up to about the 20th day of May, when the drought commenced, and having the roots of these elm trees under it, of course it suffered severely from drought; but notwithstanding that fact, when the rains came on, the grass improved, and on the 9th day of July, I cut a ton to the acre—estimated. On the 19th of August, it was cut a second time, and produced at the rate of two tons to the acre. Those two crops were simply clover. On the 22d day of September, it was estimated by good judges that there were two tons to the acre standing on the ground. All the manure or fertilizer that was applied to it was some of the animal dust, which I purchased of Mr. North, of which we had an analysis at our last meeting. I used that at the rate of $10 worth to the acre.

On the 15th day of April, I took another piece, which was situated on a hill side where the soil was gravelly. I did not expect very favorable results from that; and in fact I did not get very favorable results; but I established this fact, that by sowing my grass seed, I got an excellent sward for the next year's crop. Still, I have harvested one crop of clover, of a ton to the acre, from that field. This plan requires a certain amount of faith, which every farmer is not willing to exercise. He is afraid that his grass seed will be overpowered by the weeds, and I know that that is discouraging, but nevertheless, if he will put on plenty of manure, he can sow his grass seed in the spring and reap a good crop the same year; and, under favorable circumstances, two crops.

That states the matter very well, only we should prefer to seed in August rather than in the spring, and as a general rule we should have much greater confidence of success with seed sown in early fall. There is no certainty in either season, but in a greater number of cases the August sown seed will do the best. If we must raise grain we prefer to sow it by itself and then plough up the stubble and sow the grass seed by itself giving it the full benefit of all the accumulated fertility in the soil.

COUNTRY MEETING OF THE BOARD.

The Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture at its recent annual meeting for business, fixed upon the town of Westfield as the place in which to hold its next country meeting, on the first, second and third days of December next. An effort has been made to carry it there for the last two years, but members of the Board in the vicinity of Barre and Fitchburg were so urgent to have the Board visit those sections, that they finally prevailed. Both of those meetings have shown the possibilities of a first class farmers' institute. It is to be hoped that Westfield will make a strenuous effort to surpass them, a thing not very easy to do. But Westfield is a live farming town.

THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The country meeting of the Maine State Board of Agriculture, was held at Wiscasset, in Lincoln Co., commencing on Tuesday the tenth inst., and closing Thursday evening, the twelfth. The programme embraced a wide range of topics, including the cheese factory system, and the associated system of butter making, and the organization of a Maine dairyman's association.

The science of cattle feeding was treated of by Prof. W. O. Atwater, of Middletown University, and that of milk by Hon. Harris Lewis, of Herkimer Co., N. Y., followed by Hon. Charles L. Flint, Secretary of the Mass. State Board of Agriculture. We have made arrangements for an official report, which we hope to lay before the readers of the *Ploughman* next week.

WINTER BUTTER.

We think Mrs. B., of Ashby, will find all the suggestions she will require as to the changes needed in her system of management. We take this opportunity to thank our correspondents for their kind contributions to aid her. Their methods of management are interesting and instructive and worthy of a careful perusal by all the readers of the *Ploughman*.

Questions & Answers.

LUCERNE AGAIN.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Will you kindly give me answers, through the *Ploughman*, to the following questions concerning lucurne culture?

At what depth should the seed be sown? What distance between the drills? Can it be cut the first year? Is there more than one variety, if so, which is best?

GARD. G. HAMMOND.

New London, Conn., Jan. 28, 1874.

All small seeds are to be covered slightly. They will not endure much depth of covering. We should say from an eighth to a quarter of an inch, or not to a greater depth than a harrow will cover it.

The distance apart of the drills may be as little as they can be to admit of any working or cultivation, say six to eight inches. We think but little return can be expected the first season, certainly not till late. For that reason we would suggest sowing it with some crop like barley and a light seeding of red clover. In that case it would be broadcast, but if the soil is clean and light the lucurne will be likely to take. It ought not to be sown as early as red clover usually is, as the late frosts would be likely to injure it.

In England, an eleven acre field of a dry and sandy soil and a subsoil of loamy gravel, barley and lucerne, twenty pounds to the acre, were sown together after turnips, broadcast and harrowed in just as clover is usually sown in this country. The next spring after the first mowing the field was manured with thirty bushels of soot per acre, after which it gave two other cuttings that season. The next year the crop was enormous, the first cutting coming on the 23rd of May.

We have sown it broadcast with barley in spring.—[Ed.

CHEAP ICE HOUSE.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Please publish the best and cheapest way to build an ice house. I have seen it in the *Ploughman*, but that paper cannot be found, and oblige

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Millbury, Mass., Jan. 26, 1874.

An ice house can be built at a small cost that will be quite as useful and keep the ice as perfectly as a more costly and complicated structure. And when it is considered that ice has come now to be regarded as one of the prime necessaries of life almost, certainly as one of the most economical articles a family can be provided with in summer, it is surprising that it is not more universally stored for use in the country.

It is by no means necessary to construct an ice house under ground, as many people seem to imagine. On the contrary, a hill or the side of a hill is one of the best spots to select. If the soil is light or gravelly however, there is a convenience in a slight excavation, since the labor of storing becomes a little less. We would try and select a spot as near the kitchen door as may be for the sake of convenience of access.

Now to construct a plain and inexpensive, common, rough ice house sufficiently large for a single family use, take common two inch plank, six inches wide, and lay down, bedding them in sand for sills, say eight feet long for the ends and twelve or thirteen feet for the sides. Cut the studs off square eight feet long, of any convenient size and width that may come handiest, taking care to get one side straight and set them up face in, toe nailing them to the sill, an inch board on top for the plate on which the joists are to rest, nailing through the plate to keep them in place. Board these studs on the inside and batten the cracks with rough strips of board on both sides of the joists, making a tight boarded room eight feet wide and high and twelve feet long. Lay the floor on timber bedded in gravel or charcoal to cut off any currents of air, but not so tight as to prevent any water from melted ice from passing off rapidly. Now divide off say four feet at the end you intend to use for the door, for a sort of cooling room, and that leaves a chance for a cube of eight feet of ice, except the small space occupied by straw and sawdust, and that will be sufficient for a family of ordinary size through the hot weather of summer.

That is a wooden structure cheaply, easily and quickly constructed and not expensive to keep in repair. It is easy to set up another shell around the first, a "balloon-frame," a foot or two from the first, boarded and battened, tying the top of the outer frame firmly to the inner one by strips of boards nailed from plate to plate, the space between to be filled in with sawdust, charcoal or straw, arranging the doors by lining them with straw fastened on with laths. Of course the roof requires the same care in lining for protection as the sides, between two sets of rafters, with shingling or other complete protection outside. A suitable ventilator should, in the opinion of some, also be provided. This is usually about six inches square, leading from the ice up through the roof. Those who pack in straw often manage to get on without any ventilation, preferring to keep tight or without air. Probably the simple structure that we have described would cost, all told, not far from fifty dollars, in some places more, in others less accordingly to the completeness with which the details are carried out. But then it will be serviceable for many years, and no one can doubt that it will be a good investment.

If any one chooses to be more elaborate and build the walls of brick or stone, let there be hollow walls or spaces of confined air between the walls made as tight as they can be with mortar. In such cases we should prefer not to dig down much so as to have the ice packed below the level of the ground. The earth gets heated to considerable depths in summer and the ice will be more likely to melt than if above the surface. Of the two we incline to think the wooden structure not only the cheaper but the more effective in preserving the ice from melting.—[ED.

Correspondence.

POULTRY AND MANURE.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

It would be presumptuous for any man to say that he had discovered, or even practised *the* way of managing Poultry; but nearly every man who keeps fowls has a way, which answers his purpose for the time being, and which, if he is a sensible man, he is willing to improve upon whenever a reasonable suggestion is offered. To meet this class of mind is what gives encouragement to people to write practical articles for the columns of the *Ploughman*.

On the west end of the writer's barn is a lean-to shed, and beneath it, and extending under the barn, there is a cellar, thirty feet by twenty-five feet, well stoned, with wall on all sides except about ten feet on the south line, which is left open for a drive way. This cellar receives the solid and liquid manure from the horse stalls above. The drive way is closed in the winter, mainly with glazed sash, and in this cellar is the home of a flock of twenty-five fowls for the winter. In the month of November, or earlier, a cord of green grass sods, just as they are dug, is packed in a corner of the cellar. As the manure accumulates, fermentation arises, and the cellar is made frost proof by the heat generated, except in the coldest of weather. The grass roots in the sods sprout, and thus is furnished fine nibblings for the fowls; and the fowls also find exercise in scratching the sods to pieces, in search of such items as they can appropriate to good uses. In this way the fowls have a warm apartment, are healthy, and they yield a good winter crop of eggs.

There is kept constantly before the fowls, corn, oats, scraps, and most of the time dough of meal and shorts. They have at all times pounded clam shells, prepared bone from the factory, gravel, sand, a large dust box supplied with coal ashes and dry earth saved in summer, and fresh water.

The whole body of the manure is forked over once in three weeks, and a portion of the sods thrown over it. The result of this method is that the eggs come in the late fall and winter, when the price is high; the fowls have a pleasant life, and the manure is rich and well rotted, and fine, and lively. This is one way of treatment and is much liked. J. S. S.

Boxford, Jan. 29, 1874.

THE MILK QUESTION.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I wish to make a few icquiries of you or some of the correspondents of the *Ploughman*, in regard to the milk question.

This subject came before the Farmer's Club of this town a few evenings since; the question was on the production and disposition of milk and its products.

The opening of the subject had been assigned to Elbridge Merrill, Esq., who gave us a very able, common sense lecture on the kind of stock, (preferring the Ayrshire,) the feed, shelter, watering, and general treatment of the cow, that it was of little use to feed high with insufficient shelter, that he preferred small sized cows, &c.

The members did not seem disposed to controvert any of the positions taken on the production of milk, but when he advocated selling it at three cents per quart in summer and four in winter, or if it did not bring this to sell it for less, it did not meet with so favorable a response.

It was generally conceded that we must have more manure, and that to make it by keeping milch cows was about the only way open to make dressing without loss to at least a majority of farmers, and I think that they would submit to the going price as small as it is, if they could find a cash sale for all that they wish to produce.

I have conversed with very many farmers who wish to extend their dairy stock not only to obtain manure, but to stock their pastures. Last year it was almost impossible to buy dry stock enough to eat the feed at any such prices as would pay, and what is more, the opinion obtains that we are cultivating too much land, and farmers are turning their rough fields into pastures and want more summer stock.

The question, can the Essex County farmers largely increase the quantity of milk with a reasonable prospect of selling it in the cities and large towns without a depreciation in price, is the one we wish answered.

If not (and it is the opinion of many that they cannot,) then in what other way shall we dispose of it?

The *Ploughman* has had a few articles about condensed milk, but no one seemed to know much about the subject, neither the cost of an establishment, or of preparing it, or the favor it would meet with in market. The cheese factories, as a whole, have not paid so far as we have been informed, to the satisfaction of the farmers.

The subject of butter factories was brought up, several letters were read from some butter factory men in Central New York in answer to inquiries by the enterprising proprietor of the Spring Hill farm. It appeared by these that it takes from eleven to twelve quarts of milk in summer and ten in winter to make a pound of butter, and the cost of making is about four cents per pound. The cost of a factory for one hundred and fifty cows would be about $1,500; for three hundred cows, $2,500.

At the prices that they disposed of their butter packed, it did not net them only about three cents per quart, exclusive of the skimmed milk which could be made into cheese that would sell for eight cents per pound. They estimated that the skimmed milk was worth one cent per pound for calves or hogs.

Now the next thing to be considered is, what are the advantages or disadvantages of creameries here over those of Central New York. If the factory butter is a first rate article, why could we not dispose of t in balls two or three times a week at higher rates than any that is packed.

A committee was chosen to investigate the question of the best disposition of milk or its products. As a member of that committee, I hope to hear from you at your convenience.

I must not close without mentioning the generous offer by one of the most valuable members of the Club, (Mr. A. L. Moore,) of a site for a factory, together with a supply of cold water through an aqueduct from a reservoir on the hill in the rear of the spot which is [illegible] for the accommodation of a large number of dairy farmers. J. Z. G.

West Newbury, Feb. 5th, 1874.

SCOTCH STONE DRAINS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

In the *Ploughman* of Jan. 10th, under the heading "Slab and Stone drains," the writer says, "My stone drains made in the Scotch style never fail." Perhaps other readers of the *Ploughman* as well as myself, would like to know the manner of laying a stone drain in the Scotch style.

Respectfully yours, JOHN M. PAINE.

East Woodstock, Conn., Jan. 10, 1874.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

HEART OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

In looking over the columns of the *Ploughman* of Jan. 24th, I was greatly interested in a communication from Phillipston, signed "Farmer," and was much gratified to learn of the location, boundaries, &c., of the town. I had supposed it much like "Paddy's Pig," all long and no wide; perhaps an extended description of this place may be interesting. We have the different kinds of soil here suitable for growing various crops, a part bright, early, sandy and gravel loam, the other part, stronger dark loam with clay subsoil, suitable for grain and grass and producing good pasturing.

The people here are quite largely engaged in rural pursuits, such as growing shrubs, bushes, and briers side of the roads; a few endeavor to get a living by cultivating their farms and attending to their own business, while another class, unskilled in labor, are interviewing their neighbors, complaining of high taxes, short crops, the weather, forcing their odious opinions unasked upon mankind generally. This class seem to flourish here without the aid of fertilizers. Chair making is carried on quite extensively here, and the rising generation is mostly engaged in seating chairs, while some that have no visible trade are engaged in *bottoming*. Our ponds beside being used for the machinery of mills, are well stocked with fish, such as pouts, eels, roach and kivers—making it very remunerative for young men. Our streets are laid mostly running north and south, the people living outside the square. The road bed is a dark, loamy mud, underlaid with rocks, and graded with road wash that has washed from the hills through the season. The spirit of improvement has been very commendable for the last twenty years, so that we now have a road running over the top of nearly every hill in town. The stores, churches, and blacksmith are in *full blast*, and only waiting for the *mineral* to turn up to make them happy.

We have a good soil for corn, and good crops of tobacco are raised here in a good season, which are considered a good paying crop, one man raising 73 1-2 bushels shelled corn to the acre; this man was not of the class of grumblers.

Some attention has been given to Shorthorns, so that a few that have made one or two judicious crosses have settled down on the Native at twenty-five cents for service, and one dollar for a blooded animal (the twenty-five cent class ahead.) In proof of these afore mentioned privileges, and the successful method some people have of setting off the good qualities of the town, real estate ought to rise. People without capital and broken down merchants would do well to invest here. Markets better than Boston. Midway between Athol and Gardner is a great market for produce, (Goulding and Brooks village) most of the people raising their own. We get the prices *current* of all the people east of their own raising. The *Ploughman is took right smart here*, so that none need be ignorant only by choice, but lest I weary you and your type setter, I will close by giving you a more thorough description hereafter, *perhaps*. Truly yours,

Phillipston, Jan. 26, 1874. S.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

HUMANE MODES OF SLAUGHTERING ANIMALS.

BY PROF. D. D. SLADE, M. D., OF BUSSEY INSTITUTION, HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

Dr. D. D. Slade's lecture before the State Board of Agriculture at Fitchburg, treated at length of the humane methods of destroying the life of domestic and other animals. It was a subject not hitherto treated as it should have been, and hence awakened a wide-spread interest in the community. We are sure, therefore, that it will be widely read and do great good. It was so well received that it has been printed in the Bulletin of the Bussey Institution, and will also appear in the Report of the Secretary of the Mass. State Board of Agriculture. Dr. Slade said:

It is the object of my present paper to give instruction to those who desire to terminate the existence of animals in the most speedy and humane manner, whether such animals are intended for food, or whether they have become useless, through age, sickness or other cause. When we reflect upon the vast number of animals which are put to death in our own country alone, for food alone, estimated at more than fifty millions every year, not to speak of the thousands that are destroyed for other reasons; and when we bear in mind that a great proportion of these animals are put to death, often with the most needless cruelty, simply through ignorance of the proper methods of producing speedy death,—it will be readily admitted that an attempt to enlighten the public in this respect may at least serve to diminish the amount of such cruelty, and indirectly lead to other equally satisfactory results. While we write more especially for the farmer, who is, from circumstances, obliged to slaughter his own animals, and for those who are called upon reluctantly to rid themselves of some fond but disabled pet, we also desire to call the attention of those who pursue the slaughtering of animals as a business, to the great necessity of doing their work in the most humane manner possible. To this end there are certain measures of importance to be kept in view, and to be carried into practice.

Thus, the animal to be slaughtered should be conducted to the spot selected as quietly as possible, without the use of goad or club, and everything calculated to alarm him should be removed. All slaughtering premises should be kept thoroughly cleansed from blood and offal, and no carcasses be allowed to hang in view. No animal should be permitted to witness the death of another. Trifling as these measures may appear to the professional butcher, they are in reality of much importance, not only in avoiding useless cruelty, but also in meeting the wholesomeness of meat for food, and the market value of the animal slaughtered; there being no question as to the effects of torture, cruelty and fear upon the secretions, and if upon the secretions, necessarily upon the flesh.

The slaughtering of animals for food at the present day may be classified under three methods: 1. Rendering the animals insensible by a blow upon the head, followed by bleeding: 2. Cutting through, or injuring the spinal cord (pithing), so as to destroy the powers of motion and sensation, with subsequent bleeding: 3. Cutting the throat, deeply dividing all the blood vessels, with or without thrusting the knife into the heart, and without previously stunning the animal. This last method is practiced by the Jews in slaying cattle.

From certain experiments conducted for the purpose a few years since in the abattoirs of Paris, it would seem that the first of these methods, namely, that of producing insensibility by some sudden shock to the brain, such as that of a direct and concentrated blow, especially if followed by immediate blood-letting, is attended by less suffering than when death is effected by decapitation, pithing, or cutting the throat without previously producing such insensibility.

A German observer* remarks upon this subject: "All methods of slaughtering have for their object the death of the animal in a more or less speedy, but always in the least painful manner possible. But what is death, and when does actual death occur? Simple as these two questions may appear, they are, nevertheless, very difficult to answer. A mammal whose head has been cut off by a guillotine does not die immediately. Actual death occurs some seconds or minutes afterwards. All methods of slaughtering other than the one in which insensibility is produced by a severe shock to the brain, followed by bleeding, produce, without exception, only apparent death, after which follows the actual death, the latter being always accompanied with an entire cessation of nervous and muscular excitability."†

There are two kinds of motion. The one is voluntary and dependent upon the brain. So long as this organ remains unimpaired, so long will consciousness, sensation and the power of voluntary motion continue. The other is involuntary, and dependent upon the action of the spinal cord as a nervous centre, and is known as reflex action. This kind of motion is exhibited in the movements of animals after decapitation, where all connection with the brain, and consequently with consciousness, has been cut off.

pain and action injected in our minds are slaughter of two animals we are naturally inclined to attribute the greatest amount of suffering to the one that at the time of death exhibits the most violent convulsions. In such a conjecture, however, we may be very much mistaken, for it is possible, nay, even probable, that there may be acute suffering with scarcely a struggle on the part of the animal; while, on the other hand, there may be much struggling, and even distortions, without pain or sensations of any kind, as is often made evident in cases of decapitation, where, as we have just remarked, all connection with the brain has been removed.

Thus we see that the movements of an animal in the act of being killed are not at all to be relied upon as evidences of pain.

The term "pithing" is applied to two methods of inflicting injury to the nervous system, and thereby producing death. By one method, that most commonly in vogue, the spinal cord is severed or punctured between the first and second bones of the neck, where the peculiarity of the articulation leaves an opening. This is done by a variety of instruments. Although the animal drops immediately, life continues for some seconds and even minutes, the heart continues to beat and the brain to live and act. By the other method a small spot situated in the lower and posterior portion of the brain, known as the "medulla oblongata," is reached and broken up by the introduction of a narrow, sharp instrument through the occipital hole. Death is almost instantaneous. "No attempt is made at inspiration, there is no struggle, and no appearance of suffering. The animal dies simply by a want of aeration of the blood, which leads in a few moments to an arrest of the circulation."‡ Both of these modes of slaughtering, especially the last, require an anatomical knowledge, as well as a practical dexterity that but few would attain, and, if they are not properly and quickly executed, are undoubtedly attended by more suffering than other methods.

Without entering further into the consideration of physiological questions of so much importance, we may with safety lay down the following proposition:—

All animals, when slaughtered, should be deprived of sensibility by inflicting sufficient injury to the brain, either by a sudden and violent blow of the axe or mallet, by the bullet, or by some other equally efficient means, and should then be immediately bled during the state of insensibility.

It is important to know the exact situation of the brain in animals, so that the shock to this organ may be conveyed effectually and at once, and not by clumsy and ill-directed efforts, as is too often the case.

Fig. 1.

It should be kept in mind that the brain of animals occupies but a comparatively small portion of the entire head. In the attempt to fell them, the tendency is almost always to strike too low. Fig. 1 represents a longitudinal section of the horse's head, showing the situation of the brain, and also the thinness of the frontal bone as compared with the corresponding region in the ox (Fig. 3.)

The horse may be destroyed by blows upon the head, by the bullet, or by chloroform.

1. *By Blows.*—Having led the animal to a suitable spot, blindfolded, and secured him by the halter, the operator, armed with a heavy axe or hammer, should stand upon the left and to the front of the animal, directing his blow to a point in the middle of a line drawn across the forehead from the centre of the pit above the eye. See Fig 2.

Fig. 2.

One vigorous and well directed blow will fell the animal, but the blow should be repeated to make destruction sure. Then, drawing back the head, cut across the throat at its upper portion down to the bone, so as to open freely all the blood vessels.

2. *By the Bullet.*—The operator should stand directly in front of the animal, and place the muzzle of the rifle or pistol within a few inches of the skull, aiming at the spot indicated in Fig. 2.

If the pistol is used, one hand may steady the head by grasping the [illegible] while the [illegible] is discharged, it is better to blindfold the horse or to secure him by the halter. One shot is generally sufficient, if properly directed in either case; if not, it should be repeated after the animal falls.

In most instances, so great and instantaneous is the shock to the brain from a gunshot wound that death follows instantly, and therefore opening the blood vessels is not required.

The pistol used should carry a large bullet, not smaller than a rifle ball. A shotgun loaded with buck shot is an effectual at a point blank range, and may often be more conveniently procured.

3. *By Chloroform.*—Procure a common feed bag or small sack made of thick cotton cloth, or of any sufficiently strong material, provided with strings or a strap to fasten over the head, and at the bottom of this place a large sponge or a yard of flannel folded to the size of eight inches square.

The animal having been led to the spot selected, the sponge or flannel is to be saturated with the chloroform and the bag adjusted. If the suffocation and consequent struggling, which at first attend the administration of anæsthetics, are very great, the application of the chloroform may be gradual, the animal being allowed to respire the outward air for a moment, until these effects pass off. As it is by the exclusion of common air, however, that death is produced, the more persistently the administration of the chloroform is kept up, the more speedy will be the desired result.

The dose requisite varies very much according to circumstances. At least sixteen ounces of chloroform should be procured, and it should be freshly applied through a small slit in the bag every few minutes until death ensues, which will be from five to ten or fifteen minutes after the beginning of the operation.

The difficulties attending the administration of chloroform to so large and powerful an animal as the horse, particularly at the hands of the inexperienced, render its use less applicable in producing death than either of the other methods. In cases where sickness and consequent debility have reduced the animal and made him less capable of struggling, it answers a good purpose, but as a general rule, we do not recommend its use where the normal amount of strength still remains.

If the animal to be killed is to be buried without removing the skin, a pit may be dug, large enough for a grave, one side of which should be so excavated as to make an inclined plane, down which the horse can be led. When in the pit, his head is in a convenient position for the axe or the bullet, and when he drops he falls in his grave, and the labor of removing the body is entirely avoided.

Fig. 3.

The cranium is thicker and heavier than that of the horse, and the brain still smaller in comparison with the entire head. The frontal bone is composed of two plates which are separated by bony ridges forming cells or sinuses. This arrangement (seen in Fig. 3, which represents a longitudinal section of the head) gives to the parts great strength, and forms a secure defence against injuries to the brain, which lies beneath (a.)

Cattle are most readily and conveniently destroyed by blows on the head with a heavy axe or hammer, followed by immediate blood letting. The animal which is to be killed should be secured by means of a rope passed round the horns and fastened to a post, or, if practicable, carried through a ring in a floor and held by an assistant or made fast. The animal being blindfolded, the operator, armed with a heavy axe or hammer, stands to the left and a little in front of it, and aims his blow at a spot in middle of a line drawn across the forehead about one inch and a half below the base of the horns, or, perhaps better, at the spot where two diagonal lines intersect, drawn from the eyes to the base of the horns. (Fig. 4.)

In most cases, if the blow is heavy and properly directed, the animal falls instantly; but it is better even then to repeat the blow and to follow it by immediate bleeding. This is accomplished either by drawing back the head, and cutting deeply across the neck at the upper portion of the windpipe, severing all the blood vessels, or by plunging a long and sharp-pointed knife into the heart and large blood vessels at a point corresponding to the upper portion of the brisket, and just above the breast bone.

Fig. 4.

Failure to fell the animal at the first blow cannot be attributed to any difference in the anatomical structure of the part, but rather to the fact that the blow was ill-directed, almost invariably too low, that it was not sufficiently powerful, or that both of these faults were combined.

In the slaughtering of calves, it is not a common practice with us, as it is in France and other countries, to render them insensible before bleeding, for fear that the brain may be made less inviting as an article of food by being torn and stained with blood. By using a broad mallet this may be in a great measure avoided, and even if these results do follow, they do not in reality alter the quality of the brain for edible purposes. Objections to the humane destruction of an animal on such grounds are as unreasonable as those which are made to juicy and wholesome red veal by people who prefer that which has been rendered white, dry and innutritious by repeated bleedings, which have reduced the calf, before death, to a lingering condition of faintness and debility.

The calf should be first stunned by a blow upon the head by a broad mallet or hammer aimed at a spot relatively the same as in the full grown animal. This is to be followed by immediate bleeding practised by severing the throat at a point corresponding to the upper portion of the windpipe, using a sharp knife and doing the work thoroughly and at once, so as to open all the arteries and veins of the neck.

Sheep and lambs should be rendered insensible by a blow upon the head, to be followed subsequently by severing the throat, as just advised in the case of calves, or by plunging a sharp pointed knife through the blood vessels at either side of the neck between the bones and the windpipe.

The place to be selected for a blow is the centre of a line drawn across the head about two inches above the eyes, the brain in the sheep occupying a situation posterior to what at first sight would appear to be the natural one.

There is an idea prevalent among farmers, and even among many of those who practise the slaughtering of swine as an avocation, that, if these animals are first rendered insensible by blows upon the head, it is impossible to empty the blood vessels.

There is no foundation, however, for any such opinion. Any obstacles to bleeding are due, not to material differences in the anatomical arrangement, but to the difficulty of cutting through of the great mass of fat and flesh which characterizes the necks of swine in order to reach these vessels. This very difficulty is a reason why the animal should be rendered insensible before bleeding, not only on the score of humanity, but also on that score of avoiding the barbarous sights and sounds which so frequently disgrace our towns and villages.

In Europe generally, and at the present time in our large slaughtering establishments, both in New England and at the West, the swine are always first rendered insensible by being stunned. They should be made insensible by a blow upon the head, directed, not between the eyes, but upon a spot in the middle of a line drawn across the head three to four inches above the eyes A long sharp knife should then be thrust deeply through the lower portion of the brisket, at a point just above the breast bone, severing the large vessels leading from the heart. To facilitate this operation, the head should be drawn back by the hand holding the snout. The point of the knife after it has been thrust in should be swept about and made to cut more extensively in the deep parts than at the surface. This insures the thorough division of the blood vessels and the most rapid and effectual bleeding of the animal.

Small dogs, cats, and other diminutive animals, particularly if sick or in any way disabled, are humanely destroyed by means of chloroform.

This substance should be administered by pouring from half an ounce to an ounce of it upon a sponge or folded flannel, placed within a thick cloth or towel, and applied over the mouth and nostrils. If the struggling is severe at first, the administration of the chloroform may be made more gradual by removing the sponge or flannel, for a moment, altogether, and then reapplying it; and, as the animal becomes quiet, it should be kept on closely and constantly, to the entire exclusion of the outward air, adding an additional sponge from time to time until death occurs. The length of the operation will depend upon the size and condition of the animal, and the persistence with which the administration has been kept up.

As a protection against the struggles of the animal to free itself, the body may be placed in a sack or bag, allowing the head to protrude. Or a blanket may be thrown over the body, by which it may be confined while the head is kept away from the application of the sponge. Or the animal, together with the saturated sponge, may be placed in a small box and allowed to go quietly to rest.

The young of [illegible] which [illegible] a few days or hours old, may be humanely destroyed by drowning, if properly executed. This can be best accomplished by placing them in a tight bag containing a stone of sufficient weight to insure speedy sinking.

The quickest method of terminating the existence of a large dog is, undoubtedly, to shoot him. To do this properly and effectually, it is far preferable to use a pistol, and to place the muzzle of it within a few inches of the head, at the side, just over and in front of the ear. If the rifle is used, the same spot should be aimed at.

It is a common practice to shoot a dog with a pistol, the muzzle of which is directed behind the ear. In this case, unless exactly aimed in the right direction, the ball is likely to glance and pass through the soft part of the neck, and although death might be the result of the shot, it would neither be so certain nor so instantaneous as if the brain had been pierced.

In the attempt to destroy it, no animal should be merely maimed. For this reason, if a gun or fowling piece should be used, it should be charged with buck shot, the side of the head aimed at, and sufficiently near to insure speedy death.

The same remarks apply to the destruction of cats. As this animal is smaller, however, death may be instantly effected by small shot fired from a gun at the head, sufficiently near to prevent the scattering of the charge.

The remarks which we have already made as regards producing insensibility by a blow upon the brain may equally apply to poultry. The almost universal method of killing by chopping off the head of a fowl, and allowing the body to flutter about upon the ground, is not an agreeable sight, and has certainly a demoralising effect upon those who witness it, especially upon the young and those who are not yet callous to such sights. The same may be said also of the practice of opening the blood vessels in the necks of poultry, and allowing them to bleed to death more or less slowly. Therefore, to produce insensibility, make use of either of the following modes.

1. Grasp the bird by the legs, place its head upon a block, and strike it a smart, quick blow with a small club, or with some equally efficient weapon, and then immediately sever the head from the body by a sharp cleaver or hatchet. Retain the body in the hand until all fluttering has ceased.

2. Taking the bird up, compress the throat between the thumb and finger for a minute. Retaining the grasp, swing the body round several times, and then remove the head as just described. Here insensibility is produced by suffocation and loss of motion by the twisting of the bones of the neck.

3. A very sharp blow, with a small but heavy stick, behind the neck, at about the second joint from the head, will injure the spinal cord so as to destroy sensation and motion, if properly executed; the head to be afterwards severed from the neck.

4. Hang up the bird by the legs, and thrust a long, narrow, sharp pointed knife, like a penknife, into the brain through the back part of the roof of the mouth. Death is instantaneous. To do this considerable dexterity is required.

It has been observed that fish which are instantly killed on being taken from the water are vastly superior, in taste and solidity, to those which are allowed to die, as is the universal custom with us. And why should this not be the case? Why should we make a distinction in this respect between animals that swim and those that fly or run? No one of us would think of eating beast or bird that had died a natural death. Various modes of killing fish are practised by different people. The Dutch, for example, destroy life by making a slight longitudinal incision under the tail by means of a very sharp instrument.

On the Rhine they kill the salmon by thrusting a steel needle into their heads.

Fish may be easily destroyed by striking them a quick, short blow with a small stick on the back of the head just behind the eyes, or by taking them by the tail and striking the head quickly against any hard substance.

We have made no remarks upon the destruction of animal life by means of deadly poisons, as such agents cannot, with safety, be placed in the hands of the unskilled. Neither have we spoken of the use of various gases as a means of humane destruction, such means not being at the disposal of the people generally.

* Dr. Sondermann, of Munich. Our Dumb Animals, Vol I.

† Dalton's Physiology, First Edition, p. 381.

The Butter Question.

MAKING WINTER BUTTER.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

In reply to inquiry in the *Ploughman* of January 31st, to Mrs. C. T. B., I will state my mode of making winter butter. Earlier first place, my cows do have their [illegible] time, and [illegible] besides plenty of good English hay, which I think is a great addition in the making of winter butter. I strain my milk into pans about four inches deep, and set it for twenty-four hours in a room, the temperature being warm enough so as not to freeze the milk. I then take my milk and set it over a kettle of boiling water and let my milk scald, "not boil," and then set it on the table until it cools, and after it cools set it back in the same room twenty-four hours longer. I then skim my cream, and to every quart of cream I stir one teaspoonful of fine salt, letting it stand in the same room until I collect enough for a churning, which in winter, I do only once a week; I then set my cream by the fire, for twenty-four hours before churning, I scald my churn, and let it cool to the temperature of sixty degrees by the thermometer, which I have set in my churn, and my butter always comes readily from thirty to thirty-five minutes without any further trouble.

I must confess it took some persuasion on the part of a good dairy woman, whose winter butter always readily brought a good price, to induce me to try her mode of making winter butter, but after only one trial of the above mode I had no desire to return to my former way which was quite similar to Mrs. C. T. B. A. L. P.

Buxton, Maine.

WHAT AILS THE CREAM!

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

In reply to the question in the *Ploughman* of Jan. 31st, "What ails the Cream," when the milk is brought in, strain in pans, and set over a kettle of boiling water, till it crinkles. The cream will rise better if the milk is kept in a pantry, or room where the temperature is warmer than the cellar. Skim at five meals old, never allow it to stand long

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL CLUB,

—AND THE—

MILK PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION,

AT AYER JUNCTION, MASS.,

February 5th, 1874.

BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

ON THE SUBJECTS OF

MILK AND ITS TRANSPORTATION.

Special Report for the Ploughman.

Addresses by Hon. Daniel Needham, Daniel Round, Esq., Rev. str. Babcock, Col. J. A. Harwood, Hammon Reed, E. T. Everett and others.

A special meeting of the New England Agricultural Club and the Milk Producers' Associa ion was held Feb. 5th, in Paige's Hall at Ayer Junction, Mass. Hon. Daniel Needham of Groton, is president, and Mr. Daniel Round of Norfolk is secretary of both of these societies, and they were both present in their respective capacities. There was a good attendance of members, some 150 being present.

The Question of Transportation.

At a meeting of the Milk Producers' Association, held in January, a committee of one from each milk route was appointed to consider the matter of commissions paid for transporting and selling milk. That committee subsequently held a meeting, and after discussion it was resolved that the commission now paid for the transportation of milk from Concord, Mass., to Boston is satisfactory, and that the contractors be requested to arrange all the commissions on the basis of the price now paid at Concord, adding the increased price paid for the use of cars to the railroad companies; and that the action of the committee be submitted to the contractors for their consideration, and that their reply be submitted to the association at a meeting held Thursday.

Subsequent to the meeting at which the above resolutions were passed, the secretary had an interview with the Railroad Commissioners, and from them learned that the president of the Fitchburg road had written a letter in relation to the transportation of milk for any parties on the several railroad routes for a reasonable compensation. By this letter it will be seen that a great point is gained. It is as follows:

BOSTON, DEC. 1, 1873.

In response to your letter I beg to inform you that we have instructed the parties engaged in transporting milk over this road not to charge for such service over four cents per can between Concord and intermediate stations and this city, and not over five cents per can for all points beyond. Very truly yours,

W. B. STEARNS, Pres. F. R. R.

The purpose of the me ting was to hear the report of the above committee, the substance of which is stated, and to discuss the same, and to consider all subjects appertaining thereto.

The meeting was called to order at a little before ten o'clock A. M., by the President.

Col. Needham's Address.

Col. Needham said that he was glad to meet so many representative men, gathered from all parts of the State and representing every variety of agricultural employment. He said the first session might be devoted profitably to the discussion of milk;—its production and transportation. We had met, he said, to quarrel with any parties. We would probably not to quarrel with the railroads, for they had proved themselves to be invaluable auxiliaries to the farmer. Without the railroad, at this distance, thirty-five miles from Boston, no milk could be supplied to that market. Before the Fitchburg railroad was built, the farmer living in this locality realized only two cents a quart for his milk; and had we not the railroad to-day, and its our market, we might to-day find ourselves realizing but little more than the old prices for the products of our dairy.

Therefore, we have no antagonism to the railroad. It is and has been the farmers' protector, and has done more to advance the value of our products than everything else combined. If the railroad is not doing all it should for our interest as producers, then we have the right to say so, and to suggest wherein an improvement can be made, and if as members of the great body politic, we have grievances to complain of in the railroad corporations, there yet remains a source from which help may come to us and our grievances remedied. The Legislature created the railroad, and if the public interest is neglected by the railroad, the Legislature has an open ear for the great public, and the whole matter can be discussed, all parties heard and in the end the right secured.

We did not ask for any privileges which do not belong to us. We will not complain for the sake of complaining. Nor do we ask any concessions which in any way will interfere with the interest of the railroad companies, providing that interest is based upon the policy of the greatest good to the greatest number. We desire the railroads to live and thrive, and pledge ourselves to aid them in a generous support; for we cannot live without them, and already we have realized great advantage in their construction and operation.

Neither will we quarrel with the Milk Contractors. We simply demand that in the business of transporting our milk we be placed upon an equality with them; so that if we do not wish to accept of their prices, we can send our milk to Boston on our own account, and not have the profits all eaten up in the cost of transportation. The Milk Contractors should find no fault with us or our Association. We do as they do; *seek the best profit we can secure.* They would not come to Harvard and Littleton and Groton and buy our milk if by going elsewhere they could do better. With them it is a matter of dollars and cents and with us it is the same. We all know that there is no philanthropy in the Milk Contractor buying our milk, and that he deserves no credit for the price he pays us—he buys it as cheap as he can and could he get the supply at a cheaper rate, he would cut us off instantly and without an apology.

This with us is a business as it is with the Contractor. To-day we come together to consider our business. This Association was created that we might the better understand our relation to each other and the public. No one has the right to complain that we study our interest as milk producers, and we certainly make no complaint of the Contractors study their interest. Neither should they suspect other parties abundantly able to help ourselves. We ask only an equal chance with other business men to reach the market over the railroads.

Let us discuss the great questions which may come before us, in a kind spirit; weigh our words and neither say nor do anything which may be construed into acts resulting from the heat of passion or prejudice. Our cause is a righteous one, and the rights we claim, we ask not for ourselves alone but for the great public of which we form a small but an important part.

DANIEL ROUND, Esq., the Secretary, spoke of the advantages already secured in the letter from the President of the Fitchburg Railroad. He said some might think our progress had been slow—and some might say we had failed to make any progress. But if gentlemen would think carefully and review the history of the past, they would see that we had made great advance.

Rev. Mr. BABCOCK of Groton spoke against monopolies—and thought we had a good and just claim to equal privileges with the contractor over the railroads to the market.

Col. J. A. HARWOOD of Littleton, said he came to listen and to learn rather than to instruct. But he was interested in this subject to the extent of sending from his farm to the Boston market twenty-five cans of milk daily. He had always considered that the two great difficulties in this business were the adulteration of milk in Boston, and the monopoly allowed the contractors by the railroads. By the first the demand is decreased, and we are obliged to raise pure milk in competition with water. He believed that if this could be stopped, and the railroads compelled to carry milk as they carry apples and potatoes, it would end all our troubles, and the business would regulate itself.

The raising of milk has become the most important business of the farmers of New England, and he was thoroughly convinced that it is the most profitable branch of farming which we can pursue; that all the products and resources of our farms should be turned in this one direction. This, and the raising of vegetables, must necessarily be the specialties for us to adopt. Our farms must be the *gardens* for the cities, and those products which can be transported a distance must be raised at the West, and we must be content to allow them to be raised there.

Farming has changed. Years ago we raised everything upon our farm, hay, grain stock, vegetables, fruit, hops, &c., but to-day we are obliged to follow a different system and devote our farms to those products, like milk, vegetables, and small fruits, which our markets demand, and which cannot be transported a long distance. The demand for these articles is always steady. The cities cannot live a day without them.

We hear a great deal about the farms in New England running out; that farming here does not pay, &c. In my opinion the cause of it is that our farmers have held on to the old system instead of changing with the times. They have tried to do that which is impossible, raise everything upon one farm. If they would make a speciality of milk or vegetables they would succeed. But it is one thing, gentlemen, to *raise* these products, and quite another to *dispose* of them to advantage.

Allusion has been made to the benefits of this Association; they are greater than we are apt to think. There is nothing, I find, like being well organized, and no class of men, engaged in whatever business they may be, can succeed without being organized and working in harmony. The men with whom we deal are organized, and thoroughly too. Why then, should we not have an organization through which to speak; it is right and proper that we should, and while we should stand firm in every position we take, we should meet the contractors in a spirit of conciliation. It is interesting to me to look back and see how this Association has come up, and what it has done, for everybody who had anything to do with its formation, knows what difficulties we met with, and how we were told that the Association would amount to nothing, for the reason that farmers would not *stick*, but he believed they had seen enough of this Association to be convinced by this time that it is far their interest to *stick together.*

Before taking his seat, he desired to congratulate the gentlemen upon the bright prospects of their Association, and also to congratulate them upon the selection they had made, of exactly the right man for President.

Addresses were also made by Rev. Mr. Nightingale, Hammon Reed, C. H. Haskell, E. T. Everett, of Princeton, and several other gentlemen.

AFTERNOON.

The President called the convention to order at half past one o'clock; Daniel Round, Esq., then read the following resolution:

Whereas, the Milk Producers' Association of Massachusetts and New Hampshire was organized to obtain for its members a reasonable and fair compensation for the labor and capital employed in their business; and whereas, the experience of the five years of its existence as an association has developed large and growing monopolies, which, if not checked, threaten to make milk producing unproductive, and to develop other evils affecting unfavorably the prosperity of agriculture in New England generally; therefore,

Resolved, that a committee be appointed by the chair to procure the enforcement of chapter 339 of the statutes of 1867, or such other legislation as will make the railroad companies common carriers, and brake up existing and unjust discriminations against producers.

The resolution was discussed by Mr. Round, Mr. Wetherell and other gentlemen, and was passed by a unanimous vote. The committee comprises Messrs Dan'l Needham of Groton, Leander Wetherell of Boston, D. Round of Norfolk, Valorous Taft of Upton, and Hammon Reed of Lexington.

Educated Labor.

The President then introduced as a subject of discussion the following resolution:

Resolved, That nothing but specific knowledge of the business adopted by us and our children will enable us to secure for ourselves and them the highest development of manhood; and that our business, that of agriculture, is not an exception to this principle.

Upon this resolution, Col. Needham said that the New England Agricultural club did not contemplate making every man a farmer. If a man has a decided taste for farming and has made up his mind to be a farmer, then let him do so, but when a man has a farm here in New England to as good if not better advantage than he can farm elsewhere. If we cannot show this, if we cannot by statistics and facts gathered from the experience of men, show that farming may successfully be prosecuted in New England, then will the club have accomplished a good work, for such knowledge is of immense importance to the rising generation of farmers.

But, said he, we can show that if men whose tastes lie in the direction of agriculture will devote themselves to some specific department of that great branch of industry, success is certain; so diverse are the pursuits of agriculture that no one man can secure sufficient practical knowledge, to enable him to be proficient in every one of them. The old prejudices which have come down to us still warp our judgments and make us hesitate in a decision where otherwise we should have no doubts. That there has been a great amount of drudgery on the farm for both men and women, I have still continues to be, there can be no question. But it was susceptible of demonstration, that the cares of a farmer's life need not be greater nor his opportunities for improvement less than the lives of men given to other pursuits. The object of this club is to elevate the profession of the farmer by calling in question the hindrances claimed to be in the way of his social and intellectual culture. The field is broad, the work we have laid out vast; and it may not be permitted to us to see the realization of our hopes, yet we may do what we can. No great work is accomplished in a day. Time is an essential element in the reaching of results; intelligent, perservering labor is all that are called upon to give. Col. Needham said he hoped the resolution would be fully discussed. The large number of practical farmers present, assured him that there was abundant material to make the discussion profitable and interesting.

Mr. CARTER of Leominster gave some excellent illustrations of the importance of following some specific department of agricultural labor. He said should he live his life over he would adopt the policy presented by the President—for he should have no doubts about its success.

Col. HARWOOD said he would thank Mr. Carter of Leominster for what he had said upon this point, as it substantiates what he endeavored to make clear in the forenoon, namely, that we should make a specialty of some one thing, like the raising of *milk*, and keep our minds pointed in that one direction. The raising of milk, as he stated in the forenoon, he believed to be the most profitable branch of farming we can pursue. It is a self sustaining business—the more we raise the more we are able to raise. If a ton of hay is fed out in our own barns to our own cattle, it enables us to raise the next year two tons, and I believe it is a fact that for the hay and grain spent upon our farms we receive more than we seem to, because the capacity of our farms is increased. The man who is making twenty cans of milk this year is able upon the same land to make twenty-five cans next year. Has he capital and to his wealth. If in four years he can produce forty cans instead of twenty has he not doubled the capacity of his farm and doubled its value—the same as the manufacturer who doubles the capacity of his mill? If his mill turns out one ton per day this year and next is made to turn out two, then that it is not fair to estimate the cost of our milk at just what the hay and grain fed to our cows costs. We should take into consideration the increased value of our lands.

Mr. EVERETT of Princeton, gave his experience in fattening cattle; that he said was his specialty. In his section, they were too far from a market to send milk; but the extensive and rich grazing land which they had, made the fattening of animals a profitable pursuit. He would encourage the young men to stay here in New England, and he would encourage them to familiarize themselves with their business. Little thought had been given to this matter of farming until of late years—and now everybody was waking up to the necessity of knowing how to farm. He said he looked at the organization of the New England Farmers' Club, and he hoped meetings would be held all over New England, and the public attention called to this great matter of farming, that our young men may be kept at home in New England. Mr. Everett spoke of the rich lands of California; said he had been there and it was a great natural garden. But it was a good way off and a long time must intervene before society there could enjoy the fruits of civilization which surround our New England homes.

Mr. TAFT, of Upton, made some excellent remarks, in which he said there were many farms in New England which should be abandoned—for it was a waste of time to attempt to cultivate them and secure a living from them. He said the question put by the young man was "will it pay?" And he thought this a fit question. He did not mean in a pecuniary sense alone—but in its broad sense—will it pay pecuniarily, socially, morally, physically? He was satisfied that it would not pay for the young farmer to stay on some of our New England farms —even if the lands were given to him—for he could go into other parts of New England where there were better lands and nearer markets.

Rev. Mr. BABCOCK followed in some eloquent remarks in which he took occasion to criticise the Yankee phrase, "will it pay" —and said that we must be careful and not reduce everything to a money value—for there was something far more enobling and valuable to man than mere pecuniary success.

Mr. WETHERELL, Mr. ROUND, Mr FLETCHER, of Littleton, and many other gentlemen took part in this discussion, under a ten minute rule which had been adopted by the meeting. The discussion was very spicy, and no synopsis, such as we are able to make, can do justice either to the discussion or the gentlemen who took part in it.

President NEEDHAM closed the debate by stating the objects of the club to be the advancement of the interests and value of farming as a national pursuit, and the encouragement of the same by all honorable means. It was not its desire to turn away from other pursuits and professions young men whose inclinations and tastes were bent in other directions, but if the profession of farming was chosen, to convince the young man that he could do as well and better in New England than by going West.

The resolution was then adopted unanimously.

Agricultural Institutes.

Mr. REED of Lexington proposed the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the action of the executive committee of the New England Agricultural Club, in instructing their secretary to open correspondence with the several New England States with reference to holding State agricultural institutes, meets our hearty approbation, and we pledge ourselves as farmers of Massachusetts to do our part to make the movement a success in every particular.

On a motion of Mr. Wetherell, the executive committee were directed to call a special meeting at South Framingham, to be held at some time during the present season.

After the filling of several vacancies in the list of corresponding members of the club, and the admission of several new members both to the Farmers' Club and the Milk Association, the meeting adjourned.

THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION

—OF THE—

MASSACHUSETTS POULTRY ASSOCIATION,

AT MUSIC HALL, BOSTON,

February 8th to 11th, 1874.

[By our Special Reporter.]

The exhibition of this Society, was the most successful in point of numbers and the quality of the birds exhibited of any yet held. Music Hall was filled with choice fowls of every description and variety, over a thousand entries having been made.

The following is a complete list of the entries:

Light Brahmas 74, Dark Brahmas 41, Partridge Cochins 59, White Cochins 24, Buff Cochins 24, Black Cochins 18, Games 67, Hamburgs 33, Black Polands 11, White Polands 18, Gold and Silver Polands 12, Black Spanish 25, Brown Leghorns 42, White Leghorns 66, Dominique Leghorns 7, Dorkings 15, Bantams 86, Houdans 18, La Fleche 1, Pigeons 149, Geese 11, Swans 1, Turkeys 6, Rabbits 5, Golden Necked Parrot 1, Canaries 4, Aviary Collections 3, Stuffed Birds and Animals 5 cases, Graves' Incubators, Golden Pheasants 2, California Quails 2, Squirrels 6.

Music Hall was finely decorated for the exhibition with care; hot house plants from the establishment of Mr. Doogue of this city; the whole being under the management of the following committees:

To receive arrange and deliver specimens—Nathaniel S. Bacheller, Charles E. Tuttle, Henry F. Feich, Colonel Geo. A. Meacham, John P. Buzzell, Geo. F. Seavey, Mark Pitman, Charles L. Copeland, Samuel H. Warren.

On Temperature of Exhibition Room—Chas. E. Tuttle, C. Carroll Loring, Elbridge C. Comey.

Feed, Water and Litter—Charles L. Copeland, Samuel H. Warren, Philander Williams.

Sanitary—W. Henry Brackett, Henry S. Bail.

Entertainment—William J. Underwood, Nathaniel Foster, Jr., General C. A. Johnson, Chas. E. Tuttle.

To receive Judges, Reporters and Visitors—William J. Underwood, William B. Atkinson, Nathaniel Foster, Jr., Elbridge C. Comey, Philander Williams.

The stage in front of the great organ was devoted to pigeons, rare birds, &c.,—cages of stuffed animals and birds, with here and there a "curiosity". Owing to the crowded state of our columns we cannot give an extended notice Brahmas took the lead in point of numbers, some of the birds being very large and fine. We noticed some very fine Cochins, both buff and partridge—also some very fine black Cochins. Says the Boston *Morning Journal* in its report of the exhibition:

Copeland's coops of Buffs were among the largest and finest fowl on the exhibition, and Mark Pitman of Salem comes as usual with seven coops of this favorite variety, which promises to carry off a range of premiums. His chicks were in fine plumage, large and well cared for. Drake of Stoughton had ten coops of Plymouth Rocks on the right of the hall, a variety which attracts many good admirers. The birds of this variety take on most readily, are almost always ready to kill, and make a good fowl for the farmer. E. R. Hayward of Easton had eight coops of Buffs; Geo. L. L. Grey of Stoughton had six coops of excellent birds, while M. J. Ellis of Norwood shows the extraordinary number of sixteen coops of Dominiques, being by far the largest exhibition in this class. In the French varieties of Houdans E. C. Aldrich of Hyde Park had ten coops, a magnificent lot of birds, whose topknots of black and white were among the most striking features of the exhibition. Francis Coleman of Brookline and H. F. Dunn of Weston also exhibited fine specimens of the same variety. Williams of Taunton showed the La Feche fowl and one coop of Creve Cœurs, which were an improvement on former exhibitions.

In the class which Dr. Bolong belong D. T. Dutcher of Hopedale had four coops of various colors, and Jacob Graves of Boston, who exhibited his incubator, had also three coops of Golden and Polish Chicks and four coops of Crested Black Polands, which fully illustrated the utility of his apparatus for hatching and raising poultry. Jabez R. Maxham of Fitchburg came with three coops of the same variety. Hunt of North Bridgewater with two coops, and H. T. Sperry of Hartford, Ct., With ten coops. The latter is President of the Connecticut Poultry Association, and has contributed greatly to the improvement of poultry in that State, as his exhibition here testified. W. & E. Jennings of Newton Lower Falls, who, though young in years are among the oldest and most successful breeders in the State, had eight coops of the same variety. E. R. Reynolds of Boston, made a fine show of specimens of Silky Fowls, one variety, the Negro, having a black skin and white feathers or a kind of fur, while the Gray, India and Brown have white skins. W. H. Sylvester of North Bridgewater showed two coops of extra fine silver spangled Polands, A. H. Rogers of Worcester one of Frizzle, and Benjamin White two coops of Sultans, all of which were worthy of notice.

In the balcony on the left of the stage are ranged the Leghorns, white and red. Of the former, A. & E. Whitman of Fitchburg have four coops, the Jennings' display of Newton Lower Falls two, and they were awarded the New Bedford premiums; John Eldridge of and S. H. Warren of Weather of Boston six, prominent exhibitors, while of the latter, Stetson made the largest and finest display of any one in this country, were shown by Graves & Kimball, South Hanover, six coops, Albert Beard of Dedham, N. H., four coops, George A. Parker, South, the game birds occupy a prominent position in the end balcony, and are led off by the splendid collection of D. B. Wallace of Lynnfield, whose display is beyond question the finest ever made in this country. He had twenty-three coops, including the Rose, Ginger, Silver, Irish Mute, White Pile Game, Ginger Red and Clarkson, all spirited and elegant birds, one of whom, a White Game cockerel, recently imported, showed flight to visitors upon the slightest encouragement. W. E. Schenck had five coops, M. S. Ellis five, H. S. Ball of Shrewsbury five, and A. H. Trowbridge of Boston four. P. W. Hudson of North Manchester, Ct., brought up several splendid specimens for which he asked $50, $25 and $50 each.

On the right balcony the Hamburgs, with pencilled, golden spangled, golden spangled and black and white Hamburgs, and Golden Polands were ranged in coops one above another, presenting the finest array of any varieties in the hall. A. Meacham of Stoughton and Frank A. McKenney of Cambridgeport show the latest spangled; A. J. Tuck of Nashua, N. H., fowls and chicks of the same variety, which took first and second premiums; W. L. Shedd of Wrentham, four coops of Beach Hamburg chicks; E. S. Ongley of Auburn, N. Y., has four coops of the golden spangled, all of which were remarkably fine birds. In the class of Black Spanish, C. F. Spring of Newton Lower Falls showed six coops; A. W. Jones, Milford, Mass., nine coops, and C. W. Chamberlain of Arlington five, none of which were much below the standard of excellence.

Descending once more to the floor and passing along the right of the visitor found W. B. Atkinson of Newburyport the largest exhibitor, he having twenty-six coops of the finest varieties in the hall, many of which he has imported, including the Black and White Rose Bantam. W. & E. Jennings had fourteen coops. W. H. Brackett had four trios of beautiful Little Silver Seabright Bantams which were the admiration of all; and Geo. F. Stearns had six trios of Golden Seabrights equally beautiful.

The Water Fowl, noisy with their "Quonk! Quonk!" and "Quack! Quack!" were domiciled under the end balcony, where they joined in the grand and deafening discord of sound. Calvin L. Parker of Woburn, exhibited Wild Embden, Gray and White geese; C. A. Johnston, Newburyport, two pairs of fine Embden Geese; W. B. & W. A. Atwell of Lynn, a pair of splendid buff Turkeys, M. G. Ellis, Mallard, Call and Rouen Ducks; F. W. Hudson, Black Cayugas and Rouen; B. D. Covill, New Bedford, three pairs of the former, all of which were choice fowls. The Turkeys in this part of the hall were the largest and most numerous of any previous exhibition.

The annual dinner of the association took place at Young's Hotel, Feb. 6th, and was a highly enjoyable affair to all concerned. Over fifty gentlemen took seats at the table with Philander Williams of Taunton, President of the association at the head. After dinner speeches were made by the president, Hon. George B. Loring of Salem, and others.

First Premiums Awarded.

The following are the first premiums awarded:

Partridge Cochins. Fowls—W. H. Brackett, Boston; chickens— W. H. Brackett.

Black Cochins. Fowls—A. E. Swasey, Taunton; chickens—R. & C. A. Richards, South Weymouth.

Dominiques. Fowls, M. D. Ellis, Norwood; chickens, to same; Negro Silkies and India Silkies, chicks, E. B. Reynolds, Boston.

Silver Spangled Polish. Fowls, H. and F. A. Disco, Leicester; chickens, W. H. Sylvester.

Black Polish. Fowls, J. W. Hunt, North Bridgewater; Chicks, J. R. Maxham, Fitchburg.

Sultan Fowls, J. W. Hunt, North Bridgewater; Chicks, Benj. White, Pawtucket, R. I.

White Pile Game. Fowls, D. B. Wallace, Lynnfield.

Silver Duck Game. Fowls, Damon & Marshall, Cochituate; Chicks, D. B. Wallace.

Tartar Games. Chicks, M. & E. Schwartz.

Wild Indian Game. Chicks, M. & E. Schwartz.

Brown Red Game. Fowls, H. S. Ball, Shrewsbury; Chicks, P. W. Hudson, North Manchester, Ct.

Yellow Duck Wing Game. Fowls, P. W. Hudson; Chicks, Damon & Marshall, Cochituate.

Sumatra Game. Fowls, D. B. Wallace.

Tassell Game. Chicks—D. Frank Clark, Manchester. N. H.

Red Pyle Game. Fowls and Chicks—D. B. Wallace.

Creve Cœurs. Fowls and Chicks—Philander Williams.

Houdans. Fowls and Chicks, C. L. Mitchell, New Haven, Conn.

La Fleche. Fowls, P. Williams, Taunton.

White Brindled. W. E. Shedd, Waltham.

Plymouth Rocks. Fowls, A. H. Drake, Stoughton; Chicks, L. E. Gray, Foxboro.'

Buff Cochins. Fowls, Mark Pitman, N orth Beverly; same for chicks.

White Cochins. Fowls, M. D. Ellis; C. L. Copeland.

Golden Pencilled Hamburgs. Fowls and Chicks, to A. J. Tuck, Nashua, N. H.

Silver Pencilled Hamburgs. Fowls, R. W. Reid, Greenpoint, L. I., Chicks, L. H. Keith, Kingston, Mass.

White Hamburgs. Fowls, A. J. Tuck, Nashua.

White Dorkings. Chicks, Jacob Graves & Co., Boston; Fowls, E. R. Haywood, Easton, Mass.

Trizzles. Chicks, A. H. Rogers, Worcester.

Sicilians. F. J. Skinner, Wakefield.

Dark Brahmas. Fowls, C. E. Tuttle, Boston; Chicks, F. O. Wardwell, North Andover.

Golden Polish. Fowls, Jacob Graves & Co., Boston; Chicks, to same.

White Crested White Polish. Fowls, H. T. Sperry, Hartford; Chicks, to same.

Silver Grey Dorkings. Chicks, J. P. Brewer, New Haven, Conn.

Colored Dorkings. Fowls and Chicks to F. L. Lothrop, Hopedale, Mass.

Blue Pile Game. Chicks—C. H. Pond, Attleboro'; second prize for Java Game.

Irish Muff Game. Chicks—D. B. Wallace.

Spangled Hamburg. Fowls—C. M. Mussey, Peabody.

Earl of Derby Game. Chicks—D. B. Wallace.

Blue-Red Game. Chicks—Messrs. Schwartz.

Red Pile Game. Chicks—D. B. Wallace.

Clipper Game. Fowls—W. B. Robinson, Groton.

English White Game. Fowls—D. B. Wallace.

Black Game. Chicks—A. H. Trowbridge, Boston.

Ginger Muff Game. Chicks—D. B. Wallace.

Irish Gray Game. Chicks—D. B. Wallace.

Clasborn Game. Fowls—Damon & Marshall; Chicks—D. B. Wallace.

Ginger Red Game. Fowls—P. W. Hudson; Chicks—A. H. Trowbridge.

Dominique Game. Fowls, M. I. Ellis.

Ohio Brass Backs. Chicks—D. B. Wallace, Lynnfield.

Malaca Spangled Game. Fowls and Chicks—J. H. Brookhouse, North Cambridge.

White Mercury Ducks. Wm. Miller, Milford; for Coltred Muscovy Ducks, to same.

Cayuga Ducks. P. W. Hudson, North Manchester, Ct.

White Call Ducks. M. O. Ellis, Norwood.

White Crested Ducks. J. W. Hunt, North Bridgewater.

Rouen Ducks. C. A. Johnson, Newburyport.

Aylesbury Ducks. P. W. Hudson, North Manchester, Ct.

Embden Geese. C. A. Johnson, Newburyport.

White China Geese. Wm. Winchester.

Gray China Geese. C. L. Parker, Winchester.

Swans. Wm. P. Miller, Hartford, Mass.

Poland Geese. Marcus A. Elliot Grosvenordale, Ct.

White China Geese. C. L. Parker, Winchester.

Bronze Turkeys. George Van Deever, Port Jackson, N. Y.

Buff Turkeys. Wm. B. & Wm. Atwell, Lynn.

California Turkeys. M. A. Elliot, Grosvenordale, Ct.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEB. 14, 1874.

The Milk Producers' Convention.—The report elsewhere of the second Milk Producers' Convention at Ayer, will convince every reader of the *Ploughman* that it was not called without a reasonably certain conviction that such was the actual wish of the farmers who so enthusiastically participated in its proceedings. The discussions were a proof of the life that fairly palpitates through the whole body of this Association. It was a happy conception, that of joining its debates with those of the New England Agricultural Club, which is putting the energy of its efficient organization into the different agricultural meetings with which its associates is active. In this respect it is like a portable steam engine, that can be transferred with facility from one New England State to another, with the single purpose of aiding all. Let the farmers, therefore, plan their meetings and conventions, and call upon the Club to help them carry things forward to a triumph.

The Poultry Show.—The Massachusetts Poultry Association has come off triumphantly this year, wearing heavier laurel wreaths than ever before. It can now afford to rest a little on its reputation before taking another start in the race. The exhibition in Music Hall during the week past has been of the finest possible description. The varieties exhibited have been numerous, and the specimens of each variety uncommonly abundant. The Hall itself was a busy place, where the echoes of the cock crowing rang out shrill and clear all the time. The coops were neat and well kept, and the fowls all looked bright and healthy. The committee on premiums performed their duty with great care and skill, and to the general acceptance. Each day brought an increased multitude to view the exhibition, and the effect cannot fail to be an unwonted stimulus to the occupation of poultry raising and its sure profits. The Exhibition proved a proud success.

Woman as a Reformer.—The women of Ohio have now comprehensively organized at Columbus, the State Capital, their determined crusade against the liquor traffic all over the State. It is said there has been no such excitement in Sounes. Ohio since the raid of John Morgan, the rebel guerilla. And there is reason enough for it. Ohio, like all the other western States, is whiskey-ridden. Nothing has seemed potent enough to reach the evil until their most effective experiment was organized. And some of the conversions are simple the women, themselves—drinking saloon keepers, and topers, are reported to be wonderful. Dio Lewis was out there lecturing on whiskey-drinking some months ago, and his address so deeply impressed the ladies in the audience that they at once withdrew and moved with prayer and singing upon the nearest liquor saloon. One after another surrendered, and it seemed to them as if the Lord had lent His favor and grace. The work has been continued under the same excell ent auspices, until now the crusade is declared opened against liquor selling throughout the State.

John Milton Earle.—Hon. John M. Earle, whose death occurred at Worcester last Monday, was from 1823 to 1858 connected with the Worcester *Spy*, a large partof the time as editor and publisher. He was a native of Leicester, where he was born in 1794. He was a resident of Worcester for over fifty years, and as a citizen and editor was greatly respected by his contemporaries throughout the State. He was an able writer and an influential politician. He was for several terms in the legislature and held many positions of responsibility. Mr. Earle was one of the founders of the Worcester Horticultural Society, and one of its officers from the beginning, being a recognised authority on all matters of garden culture. He lived in retirement for the last few years, and was always held in affectionate regard by his fellow citizens.

The Groton "Grange."—A personal visit to this newly organized Grange furnished us with an opportunity to note the perfect harmony and facility with which it operated the grange machinery; and to admire the influences which such an institution disseminates through a community. The composition of this Grange is one of superior intelligence, its members being evidently convinced of the reality of the cause in whose furtherance they are engaged. Such an order as this is beyond dispute a moral benefit to every agricultural community. It is on the same plane of operation, practically, as the churches and Sunday schools, in that it elevates the calling to which its members are devoted, strengthens public morality, and inculcates a permanently high standard of social sentiment. Its inevitable office, too, is to increase the farmer's self respect by convincing him that he belongs to an order and pursues a calling which intrinsically has no superior, regarded on the side of intelligence or virtue. The whole operation of this Grange machinery impressed us anew with the inestimable value of the new institution established by the farmers of the country as the source of pure and elevated influences and a combination of moral forces which ought to be allowed the freest play in every society.

Reception at the St. James.—The guests of the St. James Hotel in Boston, on Wednesday night gave a brilliant entertainment and reception to Mr. Crocker, the proprietor of the Hotel. Besides the company at the house a large number of friends were invited, among them many persons of note. The Germania orchestra performed the music for an opening concert, after which a dance followed in the spacious dining room, which was beautifully arranged and decorated. Bouquets of rare and magnificent floral preparations. A sumptuous supper was served late in the evening, after which dancing was kept up to a late hour. It was a perfect success, and afforded unlimited enjoyment to the numerous guests as well as to the entertainers. It was also a well deserved compliment to the liberal and generous host of the St. James.

Women on School Committees.—The public interest which has been manifested for the election of women on school committees, has been much heightened by indignation meetings in the wards which elected the ladies to represent them. The remarks of the speakers at those meetings have been directed to issues of appealing to the feelings and sympathies of people rather than squarely meeting the question of the legal points involved. In the School Board and at these meetings the only legal argument raised is that the law provides for the election of *persons* to the School Boards, and the advocates of the ladies say that term includes women as well as men; there is no statute which limits the construction of the word "persons" to mean male citizens or inhabitants alone. But if that were a valid argument, it is to be observed that our organic election laws use the word "persons" in connection with all offices, from President down, and it would follow that women were eligible to any office under the government. The remedy is by application to the Legislature for a modification of the law, or for a declaratory act enlarging its construction so as to include women

A Specie Measure.—The Finance Committee of the Senate has reported a bill for the resumption of specie payments on the 1st of January, 1879. To facilitate the process, ten millions of labor, but because there is not a sufficiently direct interest in tiling or pasturing the soil, or may have some interest in conflict with our purposes. But we appeal to all good citizens for their cordial co-operation and assist us in our efforts toward reform that we may eventually remove from our midst the last vestige of tyranny and corruption. We hail the general desire for fraternal harmony, feeling compromise and earnest co operation as an omen of our future success.

Seventh—It shall be an abiding principle with us to relieve any of our oppressed and suffering brotherhood by means at our command. Last, but not least, we proclaim it among our purposes to inculcate a proper appreciation of the abilities and sphere of woman as indicated by admitting her to membership and position in our Order, imploring the continued assistance of our Divine Master to guide us in our works. We have pledged ourself to the faithful performance of our duties, and we believe that by our united efforts to the wisdom, justice, fraternity and political purity of our Forefathers.

A memorial of the patriotic Legislature in the cotton States was also presented and unanimously adopted. It is an argument in favor of mixed husbandry in the Southern States instead of expending the energy of the people in raising a single crop. It says that during the past seven years our cotton fields have added to the wealth of the world two thousand millions of dollars, and caused prosperity to smile upon every one who has handled our crops save those who struggled for its production.

Annually the energies of the cotton planters have been exhausted in attempting to produce a maximum crop of a single staple, while quite as frequently he has reduced his means in supplying his necessary wants. A system based upon the above, and producing such results must lead to bankruptcy and ruin.

No people can ever become prosperous who are not self sustaining. Our fertile soil, exhaustless mines of wealth, abundant water power and general salubrious climate, is nothing if annually we expend millions for subsistence. It is generally conceded that home grown bread is cheaper than purchased supplies, and the observation of every planter is that those small farmers who live within themselves more independent and less encumbered with debt than those who have relied solely upon the cotton crop were it otherwise, it is hazardous for any people to depend upon others for a supply of those articles which are necessary for their consumption.

It then refers to the famine which more than once has occurred in India, owing to efforts of the people to raise cotton to the exclusion of breadstuffs, and adds, that during the past year portions of Iowa, Minnesota and Dacotah, have been invaded by grasshoppers which destroyed their vegetation, and inquires if imagine your condition should a similar invasion overtake the people in the Northwest; couple with this idea the total failure of a cotton crop, either from the worm, from drought, or any other unavoidable cause.

Improbable as such visitations may appear, have we the power to prevent them? Is it wise to subject ourselves to the possibility of becoming the victims of such calamities? A safe and safest policy is as far as practicable to produce at home our necessary supplies. Is there a farm in the South upon which this cannot be done, and at the same time produce an average cotton crop as the net result of the farmers annual labors? We believe there is not annually four millions of bales of cotton produced upon Southern soil, but what proportion of that amount is retained to indicate our prosperity? One half of it is expended for necessary supplies, whilst the remainder is divided between labor and taxes; hence the cost of production has exceeded the value of the article produced. Under this policy we cannot prosper. Extensive cotton fields are grown they will be consumed before another crop can be gathered, and a remunerative market price will be sustained by the consequent demand. If four million five hundred thousand bales are grown, the large marginal excess will control and depress the market. Alternatives for success are numerous, but we rely upon the single one of co-operating in the determination to subsist at home with its end attained.

There is no reason why we should not be the happiest, most independent and prosperous people on earth.

The memorial is signed by the Masters of State Granges of South and North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia and Tennessee, and was not only heartily approved by the Committee on Resolutions, but indorsed by every member of the National Grange.

The Fire Canker.—Thoughtful writers are discussing in a serious strain the great havoc which is resulting from the frequency and destructiveness of modern fires. Insurance Companies are beginning to think that it is impossible to go on much longer at this rate. Those who receive their insurance after being burned out may consider that they are not losers themselves, but they are in the habit of not reflecting that just that amount of property has been wiped out of existence, not to be replaced save by long labor and saving. Property is the only real thing, money being but representative. There is clearly a very general looking out at times for conflagrations, is continued without any visible interruption, and no new plans are in augurated for putting an end to them. The country is in fact, in imminent danger of being burned up. Half a million dollars a day is the average loss by fire.

The Public Debt.—The February statement of the condition of the national debt, for the first time since the panic makes the balance on the right side again. The decrease of the debt during January is $1,835,211,76, and the increase since June 30, 1873, is reduced down to $9,651,400,84. The statement that the debt has decreased in January does not however imply that there has been any purchase of bonds, or diminution of the funded debt of the country, but the balance of all debts and credit accounts shows the treasury to be so much better off. In other words, there is more cash in the treasury than there was Jan. 1st. The receipts from customs and internal revenue are beginning to come up to their former figures, and it is believed that in a few months they will improve so as to relieve the anxiety about the falling off of the revenues.

ERRATUM.—In making up for the press the report of the meeting of the New England Agricultural society in the *Ploughman*, of last week, an accidental omission occurred, to insert in its proper place the action of the meeting on the resolutions offered by Mr. Phinney, of Barnstable, of respect to the memory of Prof. Louis Agassis, the

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN & NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE---BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1874

READ AND RUN.

— Dr. Hatch, fifteen years Superintendent of the State Reform School of Connecticut, is dead.

— There is some interest manifested in the reduction of the cost of living, but no one can do it without knowing what he pays out for the different classes of items.

— The town of Webster has had a case of mysterious disappearance, which may not be so very mysterious, after all.

— Sothern is Dundreary again, at the Boston Theatre.

— A Hartford editor has been sent to the workhouse for abusing his wife, which is unaccountable.

— The centenarian women are coming out of late in strong force, and just in time for the Philadelphia affair.

— A man hangs himself, and "no cause" is assigned, when every one must know that the rope was the cause.

— South Adams organized a grange on Monday last.

— Opera has not been so well attended at the present season as in times past.

— A Maine lawyer wants to be put upon at least an equality with murderers, in the popular esteem.

— John Quincy Adams has made a peculiar speech in the Legislature on the Centennial.

— Disraeli can point with a strange pride to his second triumph in the House of Commons, having floored his distinguished opponent, Gladstone, this time handsomely.

— Gov. Harvey, the newly elected Kansas Senator, is a farmer who attends regularly to his business.

— The New York Tribune observes that "newspapers are useful when they help us to rise above themselves."

— Dio Lewis says that the people of New England have good heads but poor stomachs.

— Ohio raised as much wheat twenty-five cars ago as she does now. Why "go West?"

— The question raised over the ownership of the Hoosac Tunnel is a very funny one, to say the least.

— The pecuniary misfortunes of Edwin Booth will develope his powers to a still larger limit, if he has the stuff of genius in him. But he will undertake no more ideal theatres.

— The hens in Music Hall were by no means laid out by the Convention.

— The Colleges are hard at work over the regatta problem, undecided as yet where to locate it this year.

— Another of the Rothschilds is gone, and so the older props of the famous house fall away.

— Dr. Brown-Sequard says "It is a very great mistake we commit in not teaching our children to make use of the two sides of the body indifferently. We write with one hand; we should learn to use both."

— California sturdily adheres to hard money, and feels all the better for it.

— The result of the anatomical examination of the bodies of Chang and Eng will in due time be given to the public.

— Extensive coal mines have been discovered in the State of Vera Cruz, Mexico.

— There are fifty-three journals published in the city of Mexico.

— Cespedes, former President of the Cuban republic, has taken to flight.

— The tragedian Murdoch is reading and lecturing to large and deeply interested audiences in this city. Charlotte Cushman is also reading.

— Falling on the sidewalks and breaking limbs is the habit in these times, around the city.

— There are said to be forty thousand persons in New York who cannot read and write.

— A strong movement is on foot in New York city for arousing public attention to the enormity of the liquor traffic, with a view to its repression.

— Congress has taken in hand the serious question of reducing the army and army estimates.

— The triumph of the conservatives in England is the cause of universal surprise, but it is not believed that it will be of long duration.

— The newly elected President of the Eastern Railroad is a man of superior business ability and experience, and the road counts on a most energetic and successful administration of its affairs in his official hands.

— The fashion of deficits and defalcations still continues, and no one pretends to guess where it will end. The country has broken out all over with this frightful disease.

— An aged clergyman, named Perkins, died in the streets of heart disease, last Sunday night.

— One of the curiosities of the recent Poultry Show, and chiefest next after the "What is it," was an old hen twelve years old, which continues to lay regularly, the seventh day alone excepted. Formerly she rested on the first day of the week, but is supposed to have adopted the Israelitish faith for some reason best known to herself.

— There is talk of getting through the business of Congress by the middle of May.

— The National Grange has appointed its next meeting at Charleston, S. C.

— The old Salem Church in this city, of late years used as a Mariners' Church, has had its last religious observances. It is now to be removed for replacement by a better edifice.

— The movement of Bishops Cummins and Cheney is reported to be rapidly gaining ground every where.

— Woodstock, Vt., is excited over the murder of one of its citizens.

— Boston soup is offered the poor of New York, but it so happens that Boston offers no soup this year.

— From five to ten dollars a day is the average excavated from the gold placers of Vermont. Agriculture pays better.

— Between six and seven millions of dollars in fish is what Nova Scotia took out of the ocean last year, and she left a great deal more than she took.

— One-ninth of the population of the whole country is contained in New York State, which is as good an illustration as any of its great importance in the Union.

— The canawlers of New York are naming boats after Wilkie Collins.

— The importance of planting forests is becoming impressed every year with fresh force upon the public mind.

— The new inventions include the use of paper as a building material, coal dust for fuel, and coal shale for bricks.

— Almost all the little school girls in New York city wear scarlet hoods.

— Dr. Dio Lewis, of this city, wears the distinction of unconsciously having set on foot the current temperance movement in Ohio, which is managed by the women.

— The wood of the ailanthus tree is said to be a better protection against moths than even cedar.

— The Colleges now propose to contest in oratory and composition as well as in rowing.

— A game cock in New Hampshire has been sold for $2000, but he probably feels no better than he did before.

— Somebody now proposes that Mrs. Gaines and Caleb Cushing settle it by matrimony.

— The ice houses are taking a fair complement of the crystal which will be in such demand next summer, and the owners wear rather more beaming faces on that account.

— Congress is trying to feel that large appropriations for public buildings will not be so bad a thing for workmen all round.

— The road to Brighton has been anything but a deserted road for ten days past. This snowfall puts an entirely new look on everything, horses as well as roads.

— The military court to be convened for the trial of Gen. Howard is expected to be made up of seven officers of superior rank, and they are named in this order: Gen. Sherman, Lieut. Gen. Sheridan, Gen. Pope, McDowell, Schofield, Eaton and Meigs.

— A former millionaire in New York named Benari Howard, has been sentenced to the penitentiary for five years, for counterfeiting United States revenue stamps.

— John M. Earle, for thirty-five years editor of the Worcester *Spy*, died on Sunday last, aged within a few months of eighty years.

— The doctrine that young men will do better by staying on the New England farms than in emigrating West, is becoming a more popular one than it has been for a few years past.

— Efforts are still making for giving Gen. Fitz John Porter another trial, the evidence since obtained putting an entirely different face upon matters.

— Preparations are beginning to be made all about us with much energy for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, which occurs next month.

— The bankruptcy of Edwin Booth, the actor, is causing wide comment in New York, as well as in the other cities of the United States. He acts with perfect honor, and surrenders everything.

— Other cities besides Boston are becoming more or less excited over the question of electing ladies on School Committees.

— The City Government is being strongly petitioned against the removal of the Paddock Elms.

— Seventy thousand dollars have been pledged by the Catholic clergymen of this city for a new Bishop's residence.

— There are but six vacancies at present a Charlestown Prison, and it is to be hoped that it may not be filled.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

Besides the private bills passed by the legislature, which indeed occupy a large portion of the time of the session, the House appropriation bills have passed the Senate in course. In the Senate the resolution concerning the Centennial Celebration of the Declaration of Independence, has been the subject of considerable discussion in one of the sessions. Messrs Lothrop, of Hampden, Bacon, of Essex, and Fuller, of Hampden, objected to urging upon Congress any prodigal expenditures not called for in the present condition of the country. Mr. Hayes, of Suffolk, followed in much the same objections. The President, as a member of the national commission on the subject, defended the project as of national concern, to which the state had already to some extent committed itself. The resolution was further advocated by Messrs Learned, of Berkshire, and Norcross, of Worcester, and Mr. Bailey, of Middlesex, advocated an appropriation by Congress, that body to judge what should be a reasonable amount.

The resolution was finally passed by the Senate as follows:

Whereas, it has been deemed expedient by the Congress of the United States to encourage a Centennial Celebration of the Declaration of Independence, and to indicate in some degree the arrangement and management of the same in the city of Philadelphia:

And, whereas, it is eminently proper that such celebration should be made worthy of the great event it will commemmorate, and of the people who enjoy its invaluable benefits, and therefore should receive substantial aid from the Government and Congress of the United States; therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts in General Court assembled, that our senators and representatives in Congress be, and hereby are, requested to favor such reasonable legislation as will make such celebration a fitting testimonial of the appreciation by the American people of the grand declaration, and of the blessings resulting therefrom, which it is designed to honor and perpetuate.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate the Louisiana affairs have been further debated but without action. A bill has passed the Senate providing for the payment of bounties to all who enlisted in 1861, after the proclamation by the President of May 3d, and previous to August, unless they have been previously paid. The Senate has passed the joint resolution to investigate into the District of Columbia affairs, but it has been found difficult to get members to serve on the committee.

The amendments to the bankrupt law reported by the Judiciary Committee have been fully debated in the Senate, and substantially adopted. The Committee's amendments as shaped by the Senate fix the time at forty days within which any banker, broker, merchant, trader, manufacturer or miner who has stopped or suspended and not resumed payment of his commercial paper, shall not be deemed bankrupt, and prescribe that fees, commissions, charges and allowances, excepting actual and necessary disbursements, of and to be made by officers, agents, marshals, messengers, assignees and registers in cases of bankruptcy, shall be reduced to one-half of the allowances heretofore provided for. The Justices of the Supreme Court, who are to make new rules and regulations in respect to the law, are empowered to consolidate the duties of register, assignee, marshal and clerk, and to reduce the cost of charges, to the end that prolixity, delay and unnecessary expense may be avoided.

An amendment to the law was also adopted, providing that a petition of creditors to put a person into bankruptcy shall be signed by one-fourth of the creditors in number and representing one-third in amount of debts. Other amendments dispense with personal notice where the claim is less than fifty dollars, and provide for returns by the marshals, clerks of courts and registers, of the number of cases, assets, amount of fees of officers, and dividends, with penalties for neglect.

In the House the Army Appropriation bill was the principal subject considered. An amendment was adopted providing that only the actual travelling expenses be allowed any person whatever in the service of the United States, and declaring illegal any allowance for mileage and transportation in excess of the amount actually paid, but mileage not to exceed in any case more than ten cents a mile. Another amendment was adopted prohibiting any payment to railroad corporations for transportation of property or troops of the United States over roads constructed by aid of grants of public lands on condition that no such charge should be made.

SWEDISH HELP.—Those in want of reliable domestics will do well to read the card of Mr. Chas. A. Berglund, the well known Swedish Agent, in Boston. His business has so prospered that orders are now sent weekly to his agents in Sweden.

BUCHU DOES DROPSY indicates Kidney Complaint. Check it at once. Helmbold's Ext. Buchu, the Diuretic, *par excellence*, is a certain specific for all diseases of the urinary organs and sexual system. Dr. Helmbold is the only man who ever really utilized and extracted the pro-eminent virtues of Buchu. His preparation is as much superior to the so-called "Buchus" as cream is to skimmed milk. In fact, it never fails. Sold by all druggists.

MARRIAGES.

In this city, Feb. 10, by Rev. J. B. Dunn, Mr. Jasper Elliot to Miss Ellen E. Otis.

Jan. 28, by Rev. Mr. Swan, William C. Butler of Medford to Emma C. Vincent of Manchester, N. H.

Feb. 5, by Rev. George Dexter, James Mitchell to Julia M. Cornell, both of Boston.

Feb. 5, by Rev. J. B. Dunn, Mr. Solon S. Gould of West Concord, Vt., to Miss Lucy M. Boyd of Londonderry, N. H.

In Arlington, Feb. 3, at the residence of the bride's parents, by Rev. George W. Cutter, Mr. Charles E. Mom, Jr., of Lake Providence, La., to Miss Ida L. Green of Arlington.

In Dorchester, Feb. 5, by Rev. Edward A. Rand, Mr. Elson Staniford to Miss Laura A. Read, both of this city.

In Cambridge, Feb. 4, by Rev. James Reed, Caleb F. Hildreth of Cambridge to Alfred B. Kimball of New York city.

DEATHS.

In this city, Feb. 7, at the residence of his son, Jedediah Phipps Leland of Walpole, 79.

Feb. 7, Lori Shatuck, 76.

Feb. 8, Margaret Atherton, wife of R. C. Johnson, Jr, and youngest daughter of Dr. George H. Nichols, aged 26 years.

Feb. 9, Samuel Millard, 83.

Feb. 8, suddenly, Mr. Alfred Perkins, aged 65 years 8 mos.

Feb. 8, Julia Ann Ecklay, widow of the late Thomas J. Ecklay, 52.

Feb. 10, at the residence of her son, Richard Addison, 27 Gray St., Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of William B. Addison, 74 years.

In Cambridge, Feb. 15, Mr. Daniel F. Draper, 53 yrs 8 mos.

In Somerville, Feb. 10, Emily A., wife of George B. Hamlin, 39.

In Somerville, Feb. 10, Mrs. Mary Thompson, aged 85 years.

In Newton, Feb. 9, Ella E., wife of Arthur H. Bailey, and daughter of William I. Gray, formerly of Cincinnati, O., 23 years, 10 mos.

In Milton, Feb. 7, Naomi S., wife of David G. Hicks, aged 37 years.

In Sherborn, Feb. 8, Frances Ann, wife of Joseph E. Sanger, 43 yrs 1 mo.

In West Acton, Feb. 10, Nathaniel Hapgood, aged 90 years.

In Dorchester, Feb. 7, Mrs. Sally Davenport, widow of the late Asa Davenport, 76.

In Melrose, Feb. 9, David Fairbanks, Esq., formerly of Provincetown, 71.

In Quincy, Feb. 7, Miss Miriam Marsh, 89 years 8 mos.

In Lowell, Feb. 7, of consumption, Edward Bailey, 30 yrs.

In Medfield, Feb. 8, Mrs. Anna H. Morse, 68 years 4 mos.

In Newburyport, Mr. Moses P. Brookings, aged 50 years.

In Charlestown, Feb. 7, Huldah, widow of David Smith, 74 yrs 6 mos.

In Wakefield, Feb. 7, Miss Sally Williams, formerly of Charlestown, 83 yrs 2 mos.

In Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 6, Charles A. Ranlett, Jr., 37 years.

In North Quincy, Feb. 7, Harry S., son of William H. and H. Louise Glover, 3 yrs 10 mos.

In Campello, Feb. 2, Mrs. Ellen, wife of Willard Bacon, 78 yrs 10 mos.

In Lancaster, Feb. 6, Mr. Jeremiah Lyon, 77 years 11 mos 17 days.

In Philadelphia, Feb. 3, John S. Bradbury, formerly of the United States Hotel, Boston.

In San Francisco, Feb. 5, Wm. A Carpenter of Boston, 37 years.

In East Boston, Feb. 5, Ira Carver, aged 68 years 10 mos.

In Waltham, Feb. 6, Hannah, wife of A. H. Fillebrown, 77 yrs 9 mos.

In North Weymouth, Feb. 5, Mrs. Rebecca B., wife of Capt. Cornelius Pratt, 73 yrs 4 mos 8 days.

In Quincy, Feb. 5, Augustus, widow of the late Hon. John Tenney, of Methuen, 84.

In Foxboro, Feb. 9, Mr. Samuel T. Tatten, 32 yrs 4 mos 26 days.

The new Boston Agricultural Grange is favorably regarded by the officers of the National Grange, and a letter from Hon. Dudley W. Adams, the Grand Master, recommends immediate steps toward a permanent organization of which due notice will be given hereafter.

Robbing Railway Trains.—The latest feat of this character, just executed in Missouri by five men in disguise all heavily armed, suggests the inquiry whether there is nothing in modern invention that is free from the hands of robbers that are making up in all parts of the country. But a short time ago, it was a series of deliberate and even elaborate burglaries of dwellings near New York, that went to demonstrate the insecurity of almost everything strictly domestic and not duly fortified and manned with drilled soldiery. Now it is a mania for stopping and robbing the railroad trains. The experiment is being tried at the West chiefly, but if it proves as successful in all cases as it has in the last one, there is not much doubt that it will be transferred nearer to the recognized centres of civilisation. Are we really relapsing into barbarism?

☞ An Oregon farmer, in conversation with a deputy of the patrons of husbandry, recently said: "I can't jine the grange." "I am sorry," was the reply; "we had counted on you." "No, I can't jine," said the voter, "because you've let the women in, and they'll work it round so as to get to vote d'rectly, and I won't have nothin' to do with it. The women is gettin' above their privileges, any way. They don't stay at home enough now, as St. Paul commanded, and I tell you I won't have nothin' to do with granges."

THE "HOUSEKEEPER" OF OUR HEALTH

The liver is the great depurating or blood cleansing organ of the system. Set the great housekeeper of our health at work, and the foul corruptions which gender in the blood and rot out, as it were, the machinery of life, are gradually expelled from the system. For this purpose Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is pre-eminently the article needed. It cures every kind of humor, from the worst scrofula to the common pimple, blotch or eruption. Great caking ulcers kindly heal under its mighty curative influence. Virulent blood poisons that lurk in the system are by it robbed of their terrors, and by a persevering and somewhat protracted use of it, the most tainted system may be completely renovated and built up anew. Enlarged glands, tumors and swellings dwindle away and disappear under the influence of this great resolvent. It is sold by all Druggists.

☞ A dose of VEGETINE, taken just before going to bed, will ensure a comfortable night's rest to the nervous sufferer.

New Advertisements.

BEHOLD!

WILSON'S

SUPERPHOSPHATE

AT AUCTION!

My plan of selling Superphosphate without consignment has proved so successful and has given such universal satisfaction to the Farmers, that I have decided to pursue a similar course this season, and shall make arrangements so that the Farmers in all the principal towns in New England can have an opportunity of purchasing some of my Superphosphate, either of the dealers or of my agents. I have none out on commission, and shall send none out in that way. No goods will be sent from the works until sold, and purchasers can thus rely on receiving fresh goods whenever they choose to buy. The experience that I have had in selling Superphosphate on commission, has taught me that the plan is not the right one. In many instances the goods are not properly taken care of, but often remain exposed to the weather, summer and winter, and the purchaser who buys from a lot which has thus lain through several seasons may (and perhaps justly) complain that the Fertiliser is not up to standard, when in reality the goods were of extra quality at the time they left the Manufacturer, and would still have been had they been properly cared for. It is to avoid this and other abuses that I decline to consignments any Superphosphate.

My agents will visit the various towns in New England, and due notice will be given by circulars and advertisements in local papers of date and time of auction sales.

GEO. F. WILSON,
TREASURER.

OFFICE OF THE RUMFORD CHEMICAL WORKS,
Providence, R. I., Jan. 1, 1874.
feb14-8t

SEED PEAS.

WE specially invite the attention of Dealers, Gardeners and Farmers to our very

CHOICE STOCK OF SEED PEAS,

raised expres ly by the most celebrated growers of EUROPE and AMERICA, which we offer this season, and consisting of all the new and standard varieties.

EXTRA EARLY CARTER'S, or FIRST CROP.
EXTRA EARLY CARACTACUS.
EXTRA EARLY DEXTER.
EXTRA EARLY HILL.
EXTRA EARLY DAN'L O'ROURKE.
EARLY KENT.
McLEAN'S LITTLE GEM.
McLEAN'S ADVANCER.
McLEAN'S PRINCESS ROYAL.
CHAMPION OF ENGLAND.
KENTISH INVICTA.
LAXTON'S ALPHA.
LAXTON'S PROLIFIC.
BLUE IMPERIAL.
YORKSHIRE HERO.
TOM THUMB.
MISSOURI WHITE MARROW.
BLACK EYE MARROW.

AMES PLOW COMPANY,
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
Garden, Field & Flower Seeds,
feb14-3t QUINCY HALL, BOSTON.

THE BEST SEEDS
AT WHATEVER COST,
ARE ALWAYS THE CHEAPEST IN THE END.

No matter, Gardener, Amateur, or Farmer, can afford to plant any but the BEST. We make a specialty of furnishing for Market Gardeners' use, extra early and late selected Seeds, of varieties having their special approval. Also, for Family Gardens the finest and best varieties introduced up to the present time. With us QUALITY stands first, all other considerations secondary to this.

Our Catalogue, with prices for Spring of 1874, contains full information. We mail it free to all who send for it.

SCHLEGEL, EVERETT & CO.,
feb14-8t BOSTON, MASS.

SWEDISH HELP.

FAMILIES desiring Swedish domestics will please send orders at once to the subscriber. Farmers wishing skilled labor can secure it this spring by immediate application. Orders for House servants sent weekly until fall. Having brought more than 1200 trained servants from Sweden to Boston and the N. E. States the past three years, the subscriber is confident of giving satisfaction. Best of references. Send for circulars to CHARLES A. BERGLUND, 11 Stanford St., Boston.
feb14-4t

Plantation in Virginia
FOR SALE.

A PLANTATION of nearly 900 acres, for sale, near Richmond, Va., suitable for subdivision. For a printed description write to R. G. TYLER, Detroit, Michigan.
feb14-4t*

Farmer Wanted.

A MAN AND WIFE to take charge of a large Farm near the city.

The Man must be capable of keeping accounts, and understand the management of men.

His Wife must be capable of taking the full charge of the Farm House, but may have during the busy season, a female assistant.

Address, in the handwriting of the applicant, with references, Lock Box 3996, Boston Post Office. The place is now vacant.
feb14-tf

Ayrshire Stock For Sale.

BUSS No. 717, Vol. 24 Ayrshire Herd Book, Calf by her side

PURS 24, calved April 24, 1871, sire Sam, dam Puss No. 717, red and white, two-thirds white, with calf.

MIGNONETTE calved June 1, 1873, sire Sam, dam Puss 717, red and white.

All accepted and published in the 4th Vol. Ayrshire Herd Book, property of the heirs of Samuel Goddard, Newton Highlands, Mass. For further particulars, inquire of H. B. RICHARDSON,
Superintendent
feb14-tf

Shorthorns for Sale.

"CRESCENT HILL HERD."

CHARLES LOWDER, Proprietor,
PLAINFIELD, HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA.

☞ Catalogues and Price List furnished on application to parties wishing to purchase.
feb14-3t

For Sale,

A THOROUGHBRED SHEPHERD DOG, 8 months old.
WM. A. JOSLIN,
feb14-2t* Leominster, Mass.

For Sale.

COMPTON'S SURPRISE POTATOES. 416 Bu raised from 1 lb. Apply to E. WOOD, Concord, Mass.
feb14-4t

For Sale.

AYRSHIRE BULL, (dam Godfrey) 14 months old. Pedigree Guaranteed. Apply to G. PROUTY, Littleton, Mass., or 80 India St., Boston.
feb14-7t*

New Advertisements.

"MAMBRINO LANCE."

THIS FINE STALLION will make the season of 1874, at

"MYSTIC PARK," MEDFORD, MASS.

TERMS,—$100 at time of service. Mares not proving in foal, can be returned the following season without charge.

Every care will be taken of Mares to guard against accidents, but they must be at the owner's risk.

"Lance" will be five years old next May, is full sixteen hands high, and weighs about 1150 pounds, is black, and of great bone and substance. He was purchased by his present owner of Dr. L. Herr of Lexington, Kentucky.

PEDIGREE.

Lance's sire was Dr. Herr's "Mambrino Patchen," own brother to the celebrated "Lady Thorne," sire of Robert Bonner's "Bertha."

"Lance's" first dam, "Lucy Garnett," by "Endorser," by "Wagner" out of "Fanny Gray," by imported "Margrave," "Fanny Gray" out of "Miss Lancers," by "Lance" by "American Eclipse" 2d dam "Lucy Fowler" by imported "Albion." 3d dam by imported "Leviathan" 4th dam by "Pacolet" 5th dam by "Topgallant." 6th dam by "Gallatin," &c &c.

Among "Mambrino Patchen's" colts are "Scanor's "Bertie," who at two years old trotted a full mile in 2 41 and a two mile heat in 5.39½; "Sirora Reddenhill" at two years old trotted a mile in 2.53½; "Stout," filly, 1 year old, 1872, trotted 2 mile heat, 1st mile 3.05, 2d mile, 3.08—5.07. "Stout," filly, 2 years old, 1873—1st heat, 2.44; 2d do, 2.39; 3d do, 2.40½; 4th do, 2.38½.

Dr. Herr says of Mambrino Lance:—"For size, style, speed, mechanical movements, breeding, temper and quality as a trotter and stock horse, I consider him the best and most valuable stallion colt I ever have seen."

There are, without doubt, a greater number of Mambrino Patchen's colts trotting fast of their age, and selling for higher prices, on the average, than the get of any horse of his age.

AUGUSTUS TUFTS,
feb14-tf Malden, Mass.

DARLING'S

GROUND BONE.

THE subscriber offers for sale the same article he has been manufacturing for the past nine years, which has given such universal satisfaction wherever it has been used, and only asks those to want of a

FERTILIZER

to examine it before buying. I could give any number of testimonials in regard to its value and quality, but do not deem it necessary, as I believe that every farmer should judge for himself and not be influenced by circulars.

I can furnish anything in the way of

GROUND BONE,

both coarse and fine, as a fertiliser. Also, Bone for

FEEDING CATTLE, FOWLS,

and for mechanical purposes in any form. Samples sent free.

L. B. DARLING,
Pawtucket, R. I.

Agents in Boston—JOS. BRECK & SON, PARKER & GANNETT, AMES PLOW CO., WHITTEMORE BROS., HOVEY & CO. For sale also at most of the Agricultural Warehouses in New England. feb14-18t

H. A. BROWN,
AUCTIONEER,
For Sale of Real and Personal Estate, in City or Country,
86 Devonshire Street,
BOSTON POST BUILDING,
Room 2.
RESIDENCE, WALTHAM. feb14-52t

State and County Rights for Sale.
feb14-13t

HARVEY'S COAL OIL GREASE,
FOR AXLES, MILLS, FACTORYS, &c.

Warranted to give satisfaction
DEPOTS: 58 and 75 Fulton St., and 75 Haverhill St., Boston. Factory, Wayland, Mass.
jan17-13t

STASSFURT

POTASH SALTS.

Sulphate of Potash, testing 90 per cent. to 70 per cent.
Muriate of Potash, testing 80 per cent. to 90 per cent.
Imported by the undersigned direct from Germany, now on hand and for sale in quantities to suit, by
HENRY G. HAWES,
2 Central Wharf,
(P. Box 2103.) (Successor to J. P. HAWES & CO.) aug23-26t

EARLY PLANTING.
CHOICE SEEDS
FOR MARKET GARDENERS.

Crane's Imp. Wyman Cabbage	$3.00 per oz
True Jersey Wakefield "	75 " "
Fottler's Brunswick "	75 " "
Tennis Ball Lettuce, white seed, for Hot beds	50 " "
Early Curled Boston Market Lettuce	50 " "
White Spined Cucumber	50 " "
Crosby's Boston Market Celery	50 " "

AMES PLOW COMPANY,
Seed and Agricultural Warehouse.
QUINCY HALL, over the Market, BOSTON.
Jan 31-3t.

CHEAP FARMS,
In Eastern Connecticut and Central Massachusetts,
Comprising the Best Farming Land in New England.

Cheaper in price, more favorable terms given, and more convenient to market than can be found elsewhere.

Send for descriptive list, mailed free everywhere. Address

L. E. CAPEN & CO.,
jan24-4t Putnam, Conn.

Farm for Sale in Southborough.

In consequence of age and infirmity, the Subscriber will sell his farm, situated in the Southerly part of Southborough, at a very low price and on very easy terms. It consists of about 90 acres of excellent land, a good House, containing 14 rooms, two Barns, (one of which is 30x60, and the other 22x34), and other buildings. For particulars enquire of Isaac Newton, at Fayville, or of the subscriber on the premises.

THOMAS B. CAPEN.
Nov. 1873 nov29-tf

For Sale.

JONES HILL, situated in the centre of Princeton (a beautiful site for a country residence) containing 100 acres, 75 of which is the best pasture in Worcester county. 25 acres (in one piece) of prime upland mowing all of it is cut with a machine. JOHN BROOKS,
au2-tf Princeton, Mass.

Farm to Let.

A nice place, good land and buildings, within 6 miles of the city. About thirty acres to let on favorable terms, to a steady, reliable farmer. Apply to J. P. RUSH, Jr. Brookline.
feb14-3t

Virginia Farms.

WM. P. MOORE & CO., Norfolk and Suffolk, Va., have farms from $5 to $25 per acre, with dwellings, barns &c., that will compare with the best valley lands in the North. Send for circular.
dec13-13t

For Sale.

GROUND BEEF and PORK SCRAPS, GROUND OYSTER SHELLS, GROUND BONE, and all other varieties of FEED FOR FOWLS.

FOWLS and EGGS from all the leading varieties.

Also, Agents for the Poland Mineral Spring Water. Send for circular.

JACOB GRAVES & CO.,
26 North Market Street, Boston.
mh15-1y

For Sale.

100 DARK BRAHMA CHICKS, from Imported Stock, at low rates. Also, 50 PARTRIDGE COCHIN FOWLS and CHICKS from Stock imported in 1871, and Premium Birds. Address

GEO. S. STONE,
91 Washington Street, Boston, or Ashland, Mass.
Jan24-4t

Choice Fowls and Eggs.

PARTRIDGE COCHINS, DARK BRAHMA, PLYMOUTH ROCK, and 27 other varieties of Fowls and Eggs, for sale by E. E. PERKINS,
238 Essex St., Salem, Mass.
Enclose stamp and send for Circular. jan26-tf

For Sale.

FOUR HEAD OF SHORTHORN CATTLE, viz: one six year old COW (Stella); one three year old COW (Flora); one two years old HEIFER (Clover); one five months old BULL (Sullivan.) Pedigrees guaranteed. For further particulars, apply to J. F. RICE, Woburn, Mass. jan17-tf

For Sale.

COTSWOLD or LONGWOOLED SHEEP—BUCKS and EWES—for sale as good as can be found in the State. LEWIS HAPGOOD,
dec27-13t Marlboro', Mass

For Sale.

THOROUGHBRED BERKSHIRE PIGS. I will sell for the next thirty days at Walnut Hill Farm, Brookline, Mass., at 50cen cents per pound. J. B. TILLEY,
dec27-tf Farm Manager.

Strawberry Plants.

WILSON'S ALBANY and DOWNER'S PROLIFIC, nice healthy plants, and warranted true to name, for sale at $5.00 per thousand, by F. GREENWOOD,
feb7-3t* Hyde Park, Mass.

GENUINE
PERUVIAN GUANO,

FARMERS, AGRICULTURISTS AND DEALERS in Fertilisers have now an opportunity of obtaining this valuable manure in small or large lots, at importers' prices, by applying to the Special Agency just established for the purpose of delivering Genuine Peruvian Guano to consumers at any accessible port or railway station in the country. Full particulars given in Circular mailed free on application to

R. BALCAZAR,
No. 53 Beaver Street, New York.
REFERENCES BY PERMISSION.
Messrs HOSKIN, HURTADO & Co. Financial Agents of the Peruvian Government, 53 Wall St., New York.
MOSES TAYLOR, Pres National City Bank, 52 Wall Street New York.
J. C. TRACY, Esq., Peruvian Consul, 26½ Broadway New York. feb7-2t

REMOVAL.

FRENCH & COFFIN,
IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN
SADDLERY HARDWARE
—AND—
CARRIAGE TRIMMINGS.
ALSO MANUFACTURERS OF
HORSE BLANKETS, LAP RUGS,
HARNESS, &C.,
HAVE REMOVED TO
100 Federal Street, Boston.
jan24-15t

Are You going to Paint!
IF SO, USE THE
AVERILL
CHEMICAL PAINT!

This PAINT costs less than white lead, and will wear twice as long. It is of the purest white and all the fashionable shades mixed ready for use, and sold by the gallon only. Dries with a rich, glossy surface, and retains it. Warranted not to crack, peel, or chalk off by friction. Does not fade, spot, streak, nor mildew. Send for Sample Card and recommendations.

LYMAN HATFIELD, Agent.
Jan24-52t 131 Portland St., Boston, Mass.

D. LYONS & CO.,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS
—OF—
MEN'S
FURNISHING GOODS,
Call the attention of the Trade
—TO THEIR—
EXTENSIVE ASSORTMENT
—OF—
Cotton and Merino Underwear,
Scotch and Fancy Cass. Overshirts,
White and Fancy Dress Shirts
Kid Gloves,
Hosiery
Umbrellas, &c. &c.
Sole Agents in New England for the
WASHINGTON PAPER COLLAR CO
—AND—
Manufacturers of the Celebrated
NEW ENGLAND
WHITE SHIRT,
480 Washington Street,
FORMERLY
61 Summer and 18 Otis Street,
nov15-tf BOSTON.

REMOVAL.

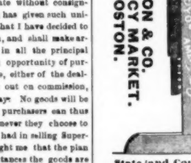
WE have removed from 30 Washington Street to the new and Spacious Store
No. 158 Washington St.
We open with a new and handsome assortment of
OVERCOATS, CUSTOM CLOTHING, AND FINE CLOTHS,
Just purchased in New York.
In addition we have a large stock of Goods removed from the old store, which
During the next Thirty Days
we shall continue to offer at greatly reduced prices in order to CLOSE THEM OUT.
Our old friends and the public are invited to call upon us in our new location, and EXAMINE OUR GOODS AND OUR PRICES.

L. D. BOISE & SON,
TAILORS AND CLOTHIERS,
No. 158 Washington St.,
oct18-52t (Two doors from Transcript Building.)

PLANTS AND SEEDS,
By Mail, Postage Paid.
25 Packages of
CHOICE FLOWER OR VEGETABLE
SEEDS
Free by mail for $1.
Send for our Beautifully Illustrated and Descriptive Catalogue of Plants and Seeds for 1874, free to all.
Shipping Plants by mail a Specialty.
Address
GREEN, BEACH & CO.,
SEEDSMEN AND FLORISTS,
(Box 1775), Oil City, Venango Co., Pa.
jan10-13t

BRANDON SCALE CO.
General Agents for the N. E. States for
HOWE STANDARD
SCALES.
53 Sudbury St., Boston.
Agents for White's Alarm Money Drawers.
jan24-1y E. J. BLISS, Agent.

PIANO STOOL BACK.



Rep, $3.50.....Plush, $5.00.
ALSO ADAPTED TO
SEWING MACHINE CHAIRS.

Every one that has used them say they give perfect satisfaction. Can be attached in five minutes without injury to either stool or chair.

Fifty cents will be deducted from above prices by sending us this advertisement.

J. N. MORSE & CO.,
98 Friend Street, Boston.
AGENTS WANTED. nov8-26t

DR. WM. HALL'S
BALSAM FOR THE LUNGS.
THE GREAT AMERICAN CONSUMPTIVE REMEDY.

Consumption is NOT an incurable disease. *Physicians assure us of this fact.* It is only necessary to have the RIGHT REMEDY, and the terrible malady can be conquered.

HALL'S BALSAM IS THIS REMEDY.

It breaks up the NIGHT SWEATS, relieves the OPPRESSIVE TIGHTNESS ACROSS THE LUNGS, and heals the lacerated and excoriated surfaces which the venom of the disease produces.

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Copied from St. Albans "Messenger."

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN & NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE--BOSTON, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1874.

The Poet's Corner.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

LINES TO THE MEMORY OF "LITTLE AMERICUS."

BY E. B.

Over the deep still river,
Winding so slow away,
A barque is softly drifting,
Through the shadows cold and gray.

A weary little spirit,
Has plumed its wings and gone,
Like the sunbeams had kissed the dew drops,
In the flush of life's early dawn.

In the starry midnight watches,
When darkness threw a pall
O'er a world in silence sleeping,
He heard the angels call,

And caught through the opening portals
The flash of their jewels bright,
As they sped on their silent missions,
Through realms of fadeless light.

Then with childhood's trust so simple,
He breathed the touching prayer,
"Make room for a child in Heaven,
A place for me Father, there."

Yes, there's room where earth's angry billows
Shall sweep o'er thy pathway no more,
Where the waves with heavenly music,
Ripple soft on a peaceful shore.

There thy spirit is free from temptation,
For the Saviour has called in love,
A tender lamb to His bosom,
To roam through the bright fields above.

When the Summer unfolds her green mantle,
The flowers will bloom o'er thy grave,
And the wild bird chant low her sweet carols,
Where the willows their long branches wave,

Winchester, Mass., 1874.

Ladies' Department.

BAFFLED.

BY ANNIE H. JEROME.

It was a fine old room, and fitted up with all the luxury that wealth could command. Its two occupants, a lovely girl and an elderly man, noble in form, but dark and sinister in face, stood together under the full blaze of the great antique lamp swinging above their heads. They were discussing a long disputed question. Their words fell flaming with passion at the girl's last words, burst out vehemently—

"You are not a slave, forsooth! Nevertheless, my haughty miss, you are mine by a heavy indebtedness. But tell me what you are, and who. You are called Edna Ivesly Hay, but what do you know of yourself beyond that? Answer me if you can: Have not I been the making of you? Did not I take you from the gutters and transform you into what you are? You are accomplished. Whose money rendered you so? Mine, ungrateful girl. You are as graceful as a fairy. Whose money paid the master that drilled you? Mine again. You are beautiful in your silks, jewels and dainty laces. Whose money made you that? Mine and mine only. Wherefore have I done all this? Because the son I idolize set his boyish heart upon your baby loveliness, and in riper years crowned you with honor by choosing you for his wife. Think you then, that I am to be wheedled out of the reward I claim? If so, think it no longer. If you have not already learned the truth learn it now. My son's will is my law—the love I bear him is my only religion. Do you understand? Do you understand that I mean you shall, with or without your consent, become his wife, simply because it is his will? If not, understand it now, and drive from your silly head that beggarly secretary I drove from my doors. I shall choose your husband, not you, who would to-day be a beggar in the streets but for my generous protection. Theodore loves you—therefore Theodore's you shall be. To-morrow he comes. Be wise and receive him as your future husband!"

There was a sinister threat in the old man's eyes as he concluded, that sent an involuntary shiver through the girl's slender frame. But a determination equal to his own marked both words and tone as she answered respectfully:

"It is true that I am indebted to you for all that I possess of worldly goods, and I am, heaven knows, truly grateful. My daily life stands witness to the sincerity of my words. You bade me call you father, and I have striven as in heaven's sight to give you all a daughter's duty. But, as I said before, I am not your slave. Theodore Lydell I will never marry. Dote on him as you will, your handsome, gifted son is naught but a polished villain. I would rather die than link my fate with his! Cast me off—let me go out into the world and battle against the poverty from which you rescued me, or—"

"Enough," thundered the old man. "I have made you mine and mine you shall remain, and my will do, slave or no slave. My son shall have the bride of his choice. Now go!" and striding to the door he flung it wide, adding in deep, hissing tones, as Edna passed calmly into the hall, "Go and remember that for the insubordinate there are means. Our new home here was chosen for this wildness and loneliness. Remember that and also that my son and I are masters here. Now go!"

A swift change passed over the girl's calm face as the door closed behind her, and it was with fleet foot and panting breath that she sped up the stairs and to her chamber.

"What can he mean? What will he do?" she gasped shudderingly, as she dropped into the chair before the blazing grate. "He is as deep and unscrupulous as the lost, I know, Heaven help me."

Her head sunk despondingly on her hand, and the silent minutes dropped into hours before she moved. At last she rose.

"I will do it," she whispered, "and this very night, or it may be too late. They all sleep by this time, and I have no minutes to waste," she hastily added as the little mantel clock softly chimed twelve o'clock. "At one, I have heard the servants say, a stage passes Hart's corner on its way to N——, and once at N——, I can take the cars."

Her few preparations were hastily made, and somewhat later she stood within the friendly shadow of the great trees through [illegible] December wind was sweeping. For a minute, eye and [illegible] vigilant. But all remained silent, and with renewed hope she crept cautiously to the highway.

A rapid walk soon brought her to Hart's corner, and none to soon. She had barely reached it when the stage turned the curve of the mountain.

"Why, it's a woman as I'm alive," exclaimed the driver, as he drew rein at Edna's signal. "All right! plenty of room, ma'am." Then to the occupants of the stage. "Halloa there, one of you passengers, won't you be kind enough to give the lady a lift?"

"Certainly, certainly," was responded good-naturedly from within, as the door opened and a helping hand was unceremoniously thrust out.

Edna sprung lightly in, and with a quiet "thank you," shrunk into a corner and was soon forgotten. Two long hours of feverish desire to push forward more rapidly at last ended, and amidst the rush and thunder of a swifter flight she matured her somewhat indefinite plans. As the first step toward the accomplishment of these plans, she left the cars at day-break; selecting an insignificant station as most favorable to her purpose.

It is, however, needless to follow her through the tortuous journey by which she designed to baffle pursuit. The sun had gone down, indeed night had long since set in, when, heart sick and weary, a gleaming light from a handsome cottage tempted her to seek shelter there rather than at the public house of the village just ahead. Accordingly she entered the grounds and with light steps approached the house.

But the exhaustive effects of unusual fatigue and excitement had told severely upon a somewhat fragile nervous system, and it was with unsteady hand and beating heart that she drew the bell. At its first vibration a deep-mouthed hound came leaping around the cottage and along the porch, and when the door opened, revealing a tall, raw-boned female of most severe aspect, her vindictive of strength gave ont, and instead of the effective little speech so carefully prepared, she gasped some unintelligible words, and fell fainting into the arms involuntarily extended to receive her.

The arms were good muscular ones, and she was hastily borne into a charming little parlor in which was sitting the mistress of the cottage.

"What is it, Burns?" she asked, without looking from the glancing needles in her hand.

"I dinna ken, Miss Ruth, unless it be a woman frae the skies that dropped doon i' my arms. It's weel they are stout, for she's heavy like, though an ilka thung," Burns coolly replied, depositing her burden auspiciously on the sofa.

Miss Ruth sprang to her feet with an alacrity that sent her ball of yarn to the opposite side of the room, and left her work pendant on the corner of the working table beside her.

"Poor dear! poor dear!" she sighed, leaning over Edna's inanimate form, her helpful fingers actively busy. "Chafe her hands, Burns, while I loosen her clothes. What a beauty she is, poor dear."

Burns set to work, her tongue keeping time to the operations.

"Noo, Miss Ruth, I'm the stay of this auld house o' the Neals, an' syne you war a bairn o' a minute auld I've done you're will, an' noo ye maun list to me. Dinna be rinnin daft noo. You ken naught o' this girl who looks sweet in the face to be sure, an' I pray you to be careful like. I ha' nae confidence i' these night trampers. Dinna forget the puir weak auld woman who sped awa' on a mon's legs wi' a dozen o' the auld Neal spoons i' her gown pocket."

Miss Neal, actively engaged in efforts to restore Edna to consciousness, had suffered Burns to run on to this point, which was, in truth a very sore one. But here she turned sharply around, commanding sternly—

"Hush. Cannot you see the poor little thing is a lady? I am ashamed of you, Mary Burns."

That "Mary Burns" settled the matter. An hour's lecture would not have been half so effectual as that emphatic enunciation of the baptismal name, which was never heard from Miss Ruth save on occasions similar to the present.

But Edna directly opening her eyes, caught sight of the tall figure, with its stiff angularities, erect as a grenadier on duty, behind plump little Miss Ruth, and intuitively comprehended that she was an object of suspicion in that quarter. The serene, kindly face of Miss Ruth was, however, a gift for which she was thankful, and with a shadowy smile and a faltering "thank you, I am quite well again," she attempted to rise.

"Not quite," returned Miss Ruth, a low, pleasant laugh rippling over her lips at the ineffectual effort. "Lie still, my dear, till Burns gets you a cup of tea."

"How good you are," cried Edna as the door closed on Burns.

And casting her arms about the little lady who was bending over her, she drew her plump, rosy cheek down to her lips. Miss Ruth's heart had pulsated through fifty odd years, and Edna slipped at once into its softest niche.

This the keen witted Burns or returning with the ordered tray quickly perceived and as promptly commented upon when out of hearing.

"The Neals war all alike. Shake them a' thegither in a big bag, an' you'd ne'er ken one frae anuther, unless Miss Ruth might fa' out the simplest o' a'!"

But Miss Ruth, unconscious as regardless of Burn's depreciative opinion, answered Edna's regrets and apologetic remark that her journey would be resumed early the next morning with a cordiality that would have doubly exasperated the kitchen divinity had she been an eye or ear witness of the scene. It must, however be admitted that when Edna, after mentioning her name as the abbreviated one of Miss Ives—naively made the embarrased remark that her present position would be satisfactorily explained at a later day, Miss Ruth felt anxious.

"She's so young," she thought. "Perhaps I ought to press her confidence. But Malcolm, dear boy, will come to-night and he can advise me."

It was yet early in the evening when Miss Neal conducted her guest up to her room.

"I hope, my dear," she said, as they exchanged good nights, "that your rest will not be disturbed. I am in hourly expectation of my nephew, who has been abroad for several months and it may be late before he comes. But we will remember our guest and exercise due care over our tones and movements, and also chain Rover, whose noisy welcome would be certain to disturb you."

With a cordial good night she left the room. In a moment she returned.

"It occured to me," she laughed, "that I ought to charge you not to be alarmed, if, in the course of the night you should hear the sound of stealthy footsteps. Burns has a singular propensity to prowl around the house at the most unseasonable hours, with an aching ear or tooth. And now I will bid you a final good night."

Mentally and physically exhausted, Edna's sleep was sound and dreamless for a time. Then she grew restless, and was finally awakened by a low murmur of voices which became more distinct as the speakers left the stairs and entered the room communicating with her own. The manly tones were too low to impress her careless ear. But Miss Neil's louder ones reached her with a sharp pang, for it was easy to surmise of whom they spoke.

"So you advise our watching her movements till we gain some information of her and her friends?"

The answer was too low to reach Edna; but she concluded it was an assent, for Miss Neal returned—

"I hate to do it. She's a dear, lovable, little thing, but very young and about as inexperienced as a kitten."

Then followed some observations relating to the gentleman's personal comfort—and directly the door closed on her retiring steps.

With trembling anxiety Edna waited an hour or more and then arose. Lighted by the decaying fire and a brilliant moon she made a hasty toilet and was soon standing without her room, prepared for another flight.

Oppressed by nervous dread of the untimely aching of Burn's ears or teeth, she paused a moment to listen. But profound silence reigned over the cottage and her muffled boots gave no sound as she cautiously groped her way down stairs. Remembering that she had carelessly noticed, on her way to bed, that the back door was fastened by a latch and bolt, she directed her steps to that point as offering possibilities of a more quiet egress than the heavily chained and locked front one.

Her trembling hand was about to start the bolt when a footfall in the dining room warned her of her danger. There was no time to lose, and in a moment she had slipped into a closet beside her under the stairs, the door of which her groping fingers had an instant before discovered ajar.

She had barely entered when the dining room door opened and the footstep sounded in the hall though no light appeared. It passed on to the stairs and all might have been well had not her clumsy boot come in contact with Burn's basket of clothes pins. Instantly the appalling clatter was followed by Burn's voice, exclaiming in a low tone—the [illegible] again." And as she reached ded, even more irefully, "At door, she addoor saw the uncanny things can rin in an' out," and a quick snap of the lock ended the complaint. For an instant Edna was in despair. The next questionable comfort was found in Burn's muttered threat, as she moved away.

"A candle and poker'll quiet you, or I dinna ken."

With heart beating to suffocation Edna prepared for the encounter by drawing the pin from her waterproof more closely about her face.

Very soon the step returned. A hand softly touched the key. It turned; the lock snapped; but ere the door could be moved by the cautious Burns, Edna, hooded and veiled, threw herself against it with all her might, at the same time uttering a low guttural sound to add terror to her onset. And it all proved too much for Burns. Instantly she lay a discomfited heap upon the floor, candle and spirit alike extinguished.

With swift fingers Edna unfastened the door and darted out, intensity of dread winging her feet as she fled from the place. As the gate swung behind her she paused a moment to remove the clumsy socks from her boots, and then continued her flight with redoubled speed. She was not, however, as she hoped, unobserved.

Malcolm Royle, aroused from his pleasant dreams by the commotion below, sprang from his bed and, while rapidly preparing to answer his aunt's frightened entreaties, caught sight of Edna's little figure under the firs.

Meanwhile Burns remained quiescent, a prey to a thousand conflicting emotions; the chief of which regarded her unexampled faithlessness in protecting the lives and property of the Neals. Not for a kingdom would she have stirred a limb till Miss Ruth had become eye-witness to the condition to which the indignity just suffered had reduced her stately person. So she patiently awaited the sound of the longed for voice directly calling over the balusters:

"Burns! Burns!"

"Oh, Miss Ruth, rin doon," was the solemn reply.

"Where are you? What is the matter?" Miss Neal anxiously returned.

And presently, to Burn's vast content, Miss Neal appeared.

"Burns!" exclaimed the lady, gently taking candlestick and poker from the hands still desperately grasping them, and the candle from its safe lodging place under the wrinkled chin.

Half inclined to laugh, Miss Neal continued as she proceeded to the no light task of getting Burns once more upright.

"How did you manage to fall into this miserable plight, Burns?"

"I'd been doon to the ingle wi' my tooth," answered Burns, excitedly, "an was gangin' to bed again when there came a noise frae the closet there. I said it was rats; see I rin and locked the door till I could gang for the candle and poker i' your hand; an' wi' them i' mine I unlocked the door careftil like when it flew upon wi' an awfu' sound, an' struck my puir auld head wi' a whack that smithered my light' an' sent me doon there." Then two robbers tumbled over my feet—twa robbers wi' twa great lumbering feet—an' out the house wi' naebody to stop 'em?"

Burns had just finished her graphic account, when Malcolm Royle, in leaving his room, noticed a fragment of white cambric caught under the half closed door of the chamber lately occupied by the guest thus far forgotten by all. Some thought called a smothered exclamation from him, and he hastily picked up the article, which proved to be a lady's handkerchief.

A peculiar delicate perfume of which Edna was especially fond thrilled him into an eager search for the owner's name.

"Edna!" he exclaimed, gazing incredulously at the embroidered characters. "It *was* Edna! No wonder I was minded of her." And thrusting the handkerchief into his pocket, he set the candlestick on the little hall table and rushed down stairs and out of the house.

Swift footed as a gazelle, Edna had sped on, fancying a Burns in every breeze, till Malcolm Royle's flying leaps proved that she was indeed pursued, and by one whose speed and strength vastly exceeded her own. But frantic with excitement and fear, she persevered, converting the anguished "Edna!" ringing hoarsely on the night air, into so many shouts of triumph. And when at last a light hand fell on her shoulder, and she reeled fainting into the friendly arms behind her, she still believed herself vanquished by a foe.

"Poor darling! poor darling! What does it all mean, I wonder," murmured Malcolm Royle, showering tender kisses on the closed eyes and white lips as he gathered the little form to his heart, and turned his steps homeward.

His appearance on the cottage threshold with his insensible burden, drew an indignant outburst from Burns, who had, to Miss Neal's dismay, just discovered the flight of their guest, and also that another dozen of the heavy Neal spoons had vanished.

The silencing rebuke which met her invectives was sharp as unexpected; but soon very satisfactorily explained by the arguent words which answered Edna's eye, glad "Malcolm!" when consciousness returned.

Ever faithful to the house of Neal, she instantly reversed her opinion of Edna, and stood ready to wage war against any who might question the entire perfection of Malcolm Royle's chosen bride. So she contentedly left the room, and not long after Miss Neal was beckoned out to hear that the missing spoons were safe in a hidden place quite forgotten in the excitement of the hour.

Little more remains to be told. Edna's death like swoon was followed by a full detail of her troubles, and the next day she joyously became the bride of Malcolm Royle, the "beggarly secretary," who was now able to offer a home as well as a heart.

A few days later Mr. Lydell and his son appeared on the scene, though only to make hasty exit. Mrs. Malcolm Royle was beyond their power.

CORN-FED BILL.

Dicktated to all der Grangers.

BY CARL PRETZEL.

Der mid-day sun for fifty years had played der duce mit old Bill's face,
Und turned der tint from red to brown, till no white meat vast left a trace.
His hands vas brown, und der great big lines, vat ploughed deep in der skin,
Vas told der years of toil und work, dhroo all his life had been.

His fhrame dond vas vat it yoost to bin, tall, and straight und shtout,
But had shlowfully doubled itself intoo, while der muscles vas playin out.
His kneeses too, vas gittin weak, und his legs could hardly walk,
Und his jaws vas loosen all his toothe, und he, gummed it in his talk.

But of the outside in of his manly breast, some varm impulses glow,
Und dhey vas bloom, und shprout, und shmell, dheir love he was go.
Der nerfy nerfs, mitin his heart, vas shtrong und steady shtill,
Nix grief, nix care, could tumble down der soul of Corn-fed Bill.

It vas pooty tuff to' shtiffe grief, ven he lookt out mit his eyes
Und saw from efery hilly top, some odder mountain rise.
Und all dhroo life dose hills vas dhere, to plook der old man's vay,
Und no sooner qwick he climb der one, der od der befront him lay.

But you see dem acres of farmin land; vell, for efery herb dhey shprout,
More as sexty trops of vasser shweat from old Bill's brow come out.
You vas saw der proofs in der golden corn, in der meddow of der field,
You vas saw der proofs in der orchard lot und in der fruit dhey yield.

Old Bill vas a farmer mans for sure, honest, shgware und true,
Und would ask of you yoost vat vas recht, und expect der same of you.
But make him aggravation one, by tam he dond shtood dot,
He knock you down so higher a kite, while you shtand upon der shpot.

He vas lifed to been a green old age, und had shouldered troobles sore,
He vas shtruggled hard to fite der wolf und keep him out his door.
But der more he worked, dhem wolfs yelled, mit mouts all open wide,
To shduff emselfs of dheir outside in, mit der farmer's beef und hide.

Aldough dem animals vas der fattest kind, shtill dheir shdomacks dond get full,
Dhey keeb expanding as dhey eat, and on der Granger pull.
Dhey eat der meats of der bodadoe, corn, der barley, und der oat,
Und only leaf der husbandman vat he wouldn'd git a shoat.

Dot made old Bill git some dander ub; so he shwore a heafy shwore,
Und allowed he wouldn't plant annodder seed, or grow him notting more.
Der old farm migas [illegible] and he'd shtarf for a load of wood
Before he'd invest him a single hair for odder feller's good.

[illegible] old [illegible]
tice, too, next year,
Und on his farm dhere vas notting raised—not efen a dishturbance dhere.
He wouldn't allow old mudder earth to grow out a single seed—
Not efen for der leetsure cow, nor his odder chicken reed.

Vell, der wolfes comed, as dhey had done a many times before,
To shdeal der fruits of der farmer's land, and rob him of his shdore.
But done var shdruck for old Bill's farm—vell der shdory vas easy said,
Dhey only found some old post holes und wagon tracks instead.

MORALE.

Dose wolfes vas dem monobolies vat shdeal der farmer's shduff,
To fill up bloated arishtocrats, vot nefer could git enuff;
But corn-fed Bill vas make em sing a song dot made 'em tans,
Und deached 'em some new deories bout railroads und der banks,
Und ofer dhey don'd look pooty gwick out, der Grangers git ub dheir backs,
Und only feed 'em mit old post holes und empdy wagon-tracks.

☞ Said a dying Christian, who had lived a pious, devoted life, "I never knew before what communion with God meant. I have prayed with earnestness, often with agony, during my life, but never with the sensible presence of my Saviour, as now. He seems bending over me. With every want, I merely look up, and the answer comes, 'Yes, darling,' or 'No darling;' and I am satisfied."

MRS. BRIGHAM YOUNG IN LONDON.—A London letter says: "We are promised a sensation soon. It has been announced that Mrs. Brigham Young No. 19 will deliver several lectures here in January on the "Moral and Social Aspects of Mormonism." The Court Journal, referring to the expected visit of this lady, says: "Brigham will have a felicity that is denied most husbands, namely, having his wife's lecture delivered at him—a few thousand miles off."

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

FEBRUARY FESTIVALS.

St. Valentine's Day.

BY MARIA A. BLMORE.

The custom of choosing valentines is very ancient. Precisely from what it originated has been a matter of much speculation. Some have maintained that it was to immortalize the generous-heartedness and other sterling virtues of St. Valentine himself, who was decapitated under the Emperor Claudius.

Some again, hold that it arose from the supposition that the birds selected their mates on the 14th of February.

By others it is said to have been derived from a ceremony of the Lupercalia, (a festival which we shall soon have occasion to notice), in which a given number of the names of one sex were deposited by the same number of the opposite sex, after which the names were drawn haphazard and the person bearing the name which anyone drew was called his or her valentine.

The Lupercalia.

While there is now but one festival in February dictinctively known as the *Purification*, yet it might very properly be termed a month of expiation and lustration. Its very name signifies *purification*. *Februa* and *Februatus*, from a word meaning "to purify" were the names applied to a reparation and atonement festival held in Rome on the fifteenth of their twelfth month, and from this festival the month took its name. More than this, the day on which this festival fell was called *dies februata*, the god who presided was frequently styled *Februus*, the goat-skin which was used *Februum*, while among the many surnames which Juno, who was worshipped at this festival received, were *Februla*, *Februlis*, and *Februalis*. So that the nomenciature of everything connected with this festivity implies that it was designed to emblematize purification.

The Februa was celebrated in honor of Pan, another name for whom was Lupercus, and from his name it received the name by which it was almost universally known, the "Lupercalia."

Lupercus is from the Latin word *lupus*, meaning a wolf, and Pan was so called because he was supposed to frighten wolves away. The festival was held in a cave of the Palatinus, one of the seven hills of Rome, known as the Lupercal. It was here that Romulus and Remus were nursed by a wolf, which wolf, apotheosised, was Luperca, the wife of Lupercus.

Lupercus was the god of fertility, and the sacrifices offered at the Lupercalia were chosen for their power. After they were slain, one of the Luperci, (priests of Lupercus) threw a sword into their blood, with which he besmeared the faces of two young men from the patrician ranks who had been conducted to the altar, after which another priest removed the discoloration thus formed by wool moistened with milk. After this a very sumptuous entertainment of which wine formed a conspicuous part was served to the priests.

Lupercus was represented as half nude, and half clothed in goat skin. So following his example his priests tore a portion of the skins of the goats into bands with which they partially covered their bodies; the rest they made into lashes and with these in their hands they rushed through the streets, scourging every one with whom they came in contact, particularly women, under the impression that it rendered them fruitful.

The Lupercalia was a festival of unbounded license and lust. Many attempts were made by the early Roman emperors, especially Augustus, to suppress the evils and vices attendant upon its celebration, and also completely to abolish the observance itself. This latter, however, was not effected until the year 496. Nor was its celebration entirely confined within the walls of Rome. It was quite extensively observed in many of the other cities and villages of Italy and ancient Gaul.

The Feralia.

This was the name of another Roman festival held in February in honor of the dead. It lasted eleven days, but as to what day it began writers disagree. Some say it was the 17th, others the 19th, and others the 21st. From what the word is derived has also been a matter of dispute. The ancient Varro derives it from the verb *Fer*, *ferre*, bear or carry, because refreshments were conveyed and partaken of at the tombs of those who were buried on that day. Festus, a modern writer, traces its etymology to the word *ferio*, to strike, because animals were stricken down as sacrifices. Vossius deduces it from the adjective *ferus*, cruel, a term frequently used in allusion to death.

Neither is it positively known in what year the celebration was founded. The reign of Numa has been accredited with its introduction, although Ovid dates it as far back as the time of Aeneas.

During the Feralia presents were extensively made at the sepulchres of the departed, temples were closed, and marriage contracts strictly prohibited.

It was a request of many of the rich and great that their immediate descendents and dearest friends should after their death provide large public feasts for the people, particularly the poorer classes, at the places where their remains had been deposited. It was supposed that those who failed to reach heaven were granted a release from their tortures, agonies and persecutions during this festival, and that they were permitted to enjoy the feasts furnished at this time.

We are also told that simultaneous with the Feralia was a festival in honor of the goddess of silence, Muta. She was the daughter of the river-god, Almo, was known also as Lara and Larmida, and was worshipped in Rome under the name Tacita.

ADAPTIVENESS.

There is a quality of human nature which may be called adaptiveness. Some persons readily adapt themselves to any new society into which they may be thrown; others not. When a man rises in the world, it is often found that his wife does not, cannot rise with him. When he is disposed to live in good style, and associate with persons of superior rank and attainments who would be glad of his society, she remains immovable in her original habits, and disdains to assume the position that has fallen to her lot; at the same time, perhaps, not refraining from extravagance in dress and other expensive luxuries. Sometimes this indisposition to rise does not proceed solely from want of the intellect and taste requisite for the purpose, but from a kind of wilful perversity. Not finding that new acquaintances attribute any peculiar merit to her, or pay her any particular attention, she affects to hold lightly the marks of approbation bestowed upon her husband, and takes a kind of pleasure in not favoring his advance. In some cases, the mere sense of awkwardness under the new circumstances, attended with inherent shyness, may operate to the same effect. Anyway, a wrong is done, that usually leads to domestic unhappiness. In those cases in which the wife was taken from a humble station, and had no sort of education or [illegible] lady like manners, there is something to excuse, and possibly not much pity for the husband. It is not, however, in cases that are meant [illegible] wife [illegible] and trained in a respectable rank of society, and who really could comport herself properly if she liked. Surely women ought to consider it as a sacred duty to adapt themselves as far as they may to their changed condition, to put a constraint on their natural inclinations, if need be. A regard for the happiness of the husband fairly demands it.

TEACHING CANARY BIRDS.—In an old civilization every cranny and corner of public want is filled. A crowd of poor men are always ready to take advantage of any opening of this kind to make a livelihood. One of the curious professions is that of a canary-bird teacher, where the bird is taught to sing. Most of his time is occupied in training birds to sing in his lodgings, but he also gives lessons in the town if required. The ordinary bird costs three francs, but when it has received its education its value is quadrupled. Should it turn out to be a *rara avis*—say the Patti of canary birds—the price becomes difficult to fix. Owners of birds often send them for a time to school to this professor to finish their education. For developing the musical faculties of the feathery pupil, a charge of five francs is made. There are probably more amateurs of these songsters here than elsewhere; hence the existence of such a singular calling.—*Galaxy for Feb.*

☞ A great soul is known by its enlarged strong and tender sympathies. True elevation of mind does not take a being out of the circle of those who are below him, but binds him faster to them, and gives them advantages for a closer attachment and conformity to him.—*Dr. Channing.*

☞ There is no doubt of the essential nobility of that man who pours into his life the honest vigor of his toil, over those who compose the feathery foam of fashion that sweeps along broadway; and who ignoring the family history, paint coats of arms to cover up the leather of their grandfathers.—*Chapin.*

RELATIONS OF MARRIAGE IN RELIGION.

In a paper read before the British Association, Mr. Edward B. Tylor makes the following remarks: The evidence of the lower races indicates, that in the early stages of civilisation marriage was a purely civil contract. Its earliest forms are shown among savage tribes in Brazil, and elsewhere. The peaceable form appears well in the customs of the marriageable youth leaving a present of fruit, game, etc., at the door of the girl's parents; this is a clear symbolic promise that he will maintain her as a wife. Another plan common in Brazil, is for the expectant bridegroom to serve for a time in the family of the bride, till he is considered to have earned her.

The custom of buying the wife comes in at a later period of civilization, when property suited for trade existed. The hostile form of marriage by capture has also existed among low tribes in Brazil up to modern times, the man simply carrying off by force a damsel of a distant tribe. The antiquity of this "Sabine marriage" in the general history of mankind is shown by its survival in such countries as Ireland and Wales, where, within modern times, the ceremony of capturing the bride in a mock fight was still kept up.

In none of these primitive forms of marriage, as retained in savage countries, did any religious rite or idea enter. It is not till we reach the high savage and barbaric conditions that the coalescence between marriage and religion takes place; as among the Mongols, where the priest presides at the marriage feast, consecrates the bridal tent with incense, and places the couple kneeling with their faces to the east, to adore the sun, fire and earth; or among the Astecs, where the priest ties together the garments of the bridegroom and bride in sign of union, and the wedded pair pass the time of the marriage festival in religious ceremonies and austerities.—*Scribner for February.*

SILENCE.

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'Tis only a pause in the strain,
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And the world she has brightened and blest
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—*Harper's Bazar.*

THE FASHIONS.

REQUISITES FOR A FASHIONABLE OUTFIT.

Among these we should place an elegant visiting toilette first, and for a young married lady nothing is more distinguished than the following: Skirt of rich brown faille trimmed with alternate flounces of velvet and faille at the back; kilted trimming in front, headed with bands of velvet, terminating in velvet bows fastened with bronze buckles; seal skin jacket and muff trimmed with otter, brown velvet bonnet trimmed with brown and blue feathers and brown strings, with reversible side of blue satin.

Next to this a Huguenot dress of black velvet, with trained skirt trimmed on the sides, with long trails of fern shaped leaves, widening as they reach the bottom, and executed in silk and jet. A high basque bodice, plain but finished with puffs lined with gray satin and white pleated tulle, and coat sleeves mounted with a puff on the top, something in the style of Henry III., but higher and narrower.

Dinner dress No. 2 of pale pink, blue or green, with two bodies, one low for evening, trimmed with Grecian folds of tulle and blonde; another high and open en chale, with antique sleeves trimmed with handsome old lace. A white lace trimmed tunic of muslin or crepe de chine will be found useful for occasions.

Then for a morning shopping dress, a navy blue suit of vigogne, with navy blue jacket, navy blue felt hat with black band and black wing and black lynx furs.

A dressing gown of white, blue or scarlet flannel made like a long paletot, with slippers to match and tied round the waist with a cord, is now considered indispensable; and so also are the quilted silk boots, made to wear over satin slippers in going to and from the carriage.

At least one good black silk is as necessary as ever, and with some black lace, a sleeveless jacket of velvet and a tunic of muslin and valenciennes lace, it can be put to such manifold uses.

LONDON'S POET.

If Hood's life had been one of scholastic ease, in all likelihood we would not have written that for which his name is cherished. He was evidently a *journalist-poet*, and must be observed in that capacity. Even his facetious poems depict the throng upon the walks. The sweep, the laborer, the sailor, the tradesman, even the dumb beasts that render service or companionship, appeal to his kindly or mirthful sensibilities and figure in his rhymes. Thus he was, also, *London's Poet*, the nursling of the city which gave him birth, and now holds sacred his resting place in her cemetery of Kensall Green. Like the gentle Elia, whom he resembled in other ways, he loved "the sweet security of the streets," and well, indeed, he knew them. None but such as he could rightly speak of their wanderers and poor. The rich philanthropist or aristocratic author may honestly give his service to the lower classes, and endeavor by contact with them to enter into their feelings, yet it is almost impossible, unless nurtured yourself in the withered bosom of the Lady of Poverty, to read the language of her patient foster children. The relation of almoner and beneficiary still exists, a sure though indefinable barrier. Hood was not exclusively a poet of the people, like Elliott or Beranger, but one who interpreted the popular heart, being himself a sufferer, and living from hand to mouth by ill-requited toil. If his culture divided him somewhat from the poor, he all the more endured the lack of that free confidence which [illegible] was no richer. The poor must hide their wounds even from one another. Hood soliced his own trials by a plea for those "who in he saw suffer."—*Scribner's for February.*

THE CRITICAL AND CREATIVE GIFTS.

The critical faculty is not of itself incompatible with imaginative and creative power. We are indebted for lasting aesthetic canons to great poets of various eras. Even the fragmentary comments and marginalia of Goethe, Byron, Landor, Coleridge, etc., are full of point and suggestion. For one I believe that, as able lawyers are the best judges of a lawyer's powers and attainments, so the painters, sculptors, musicians and poets, are most competent to decide upon the merits of works in their respective departments of art,—though not always being human, openly honest and prejudiced. Doubtless many lawyers will assent to the first portion of this statement, and scout the remainder. But, at all events, poets like other men, are wont to become more thoughtful as they grow older, and I do not see that the work of the masters has suffered for it. Arnold, however, is so much greater as a writer of critical prose than as a poet, that people have learned where to look for his genius, and where for his talent and sensibility. His essays are illuminated by his poetic imagination, and he thus becomes a better prose writer than a mere didactician ever could be.—*Scribner's for February.*

☞ "A woman," says a living writer, "is more or less judged by the style of her dress, and half her influence for good or bad depends on it also. Few deny this on theory, and, if they only could or would put it in practic, what a marvellous increase of pleasantness and comfort there would be for the remainder of the world, to say nothing of what would accrue to themselves! It makes one quite sad to think of the husbands, brothers and male relatives in general, who are daily rubbed up the wrong way by their womankind on limited incomes, the said limitations being continually made the excuse for shortcomings and shabbiness."

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